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DPL looks at installing railing along Managaha pier. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

75¢

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3K PUA checks ready for printing

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig has disclosed that they are ready to print 3,000 more checks to Commonwealth recipients of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

» To minimize delays, Finance converts to manual checks for those having bank account issues

Speaking at a radio news briefing Friday, Atalig said the batch that they've worked on and cleared covers Sept. 22 as latest pay date. He said they are ready to print the checks and just need the green light from the Department of Labor's software vendor, Geographic Solutions Inc.

"This is about over 3,000

See PUA on Page 4

SEWER LIFT REHAB PROJECT
An excavator truck being operated by a Hong Ye Construction worker digs a gaping hole on the ground in Marpi near the entrance of Pau Pau Beach as part of a Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The digging process will allow the workers to locate the sewerline in order for the restoration of the pipes to begin. The project started on June 24, 2020, and is set to be completed next year on March 20, 2021.

NEIL FAMA

6 tabulating machines delivered, tested

» Deadline to submit application for absentee voting is Friday

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Villagomez

Six newly purchased tabulating machines for the Nov. 3 general election have been delivered to the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe and have been tested, according to CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez.

Villagomez on Monday also reminded voters that this Friday, Oct. 9, is the deadline to request for ab-

See TESTED on Page 4

Austerity Mondays conflict with PSS calendar

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Ada

What was supposed to be the first day of face-to-face instruction at the Public School System turned out to be another day off.

PSS had a setback on its first day of back-to-school as the day fell on an Austerity Monday, which was imple-

See AUSTERITY on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Oct. 6, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	2,699	54	2,753
Recovered	1,887	8	1,895
Active	750	54	804
Deaths	52	3	55
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			52,552

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	75	0	75
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			19,345*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

EHDP shuts down XO Market

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Environmental Health Disease Prevention—which is the new name of the old Bureau of Environmental Health—shut down the New XO Market on Middle Road last Oct. 4 due to violations of sanitization procedures.

EHDP shut down the market at 1:10pm last Sunday, with the inspection team finding violations that would not allow them to continue operations. However, as soon as the violations have been resolved

See EHDP on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
IT&E will be acquiring iCONNECT's telecommunications assets in Guam and the CNMI.

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NATION
President Donald Trump staged a dramatic return to the White House Monday night.

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ASIA
Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte suspects that extrajudicial killings may have happened.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

RNV seeks to reverse OPA decision in CUC project

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

RNV Construction is suing to reverse an Office of the Public Auditor's decision and allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to grant the construction project to RNV.

Michael Dotts, who represents RNV in the lawsuit filed in the Superior Court, described OPA's decision in February as arbitrary and capricious.

RNV alleges that OPA abused its discretion in reversing the decision of the public utilities company to award the project to RNV and that the OPA decision is subject to review under the Administrative Procedure Act.

Dotts said the project should be awarded to RNV because not only was it the lowest bidder, but RNV was also a responsive bidder, submitting a bid that complied with all aspects of the invitation for bids.

Additionally, Dotts said the Insurer Certification Clearance Request or ICCR, the only thing RNV's bid proposal lacked, was not material to the bid and that the ICCR did not have any influence on RNV's legal obligation in the bid.

Dotts said CUC can use its discretion to waive the certificate requirement.

Back on Aug. 8, 2019, CUC solicited bids for the San Vicente Water Tank Replacement project. RNV submitted its bid on Sept. 6, 2019. RNV was up against two other bidders: AIC Marianas and GPPC, Inc.

However, CUC considered RNV's bid non-responsive, even though they were the lowest bidder, because RNV did not include an ICCR from the Department of Commerce, resulting in CUC awarding the project to the second lowest bidder, GPPC. RNV protested.

CUC then annulled its original award determination to GPPC, stating in its decision letter that the original decision was reversed because the missing ICCR was a minor informality under the law and regulations and it could easily be cured by RNV.

GPPC then appealed the CUC decision to OPA. On Feb. 28, 2020, OPA granted the GPPC appeal, saying that the missing ICCR was material to the bid and the requirement could not be waived by the contracting agency. OPA then reversed CUC's decision and awarded the contract to GPPC.

On March 13, 2020, RNV asked for reconsideration, which OPA denied.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signed last Oct. 2 at the Office of the Governor the proclamation that designates October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. He encourages everyone in the CNMI community to join the movement to end domestic violence in the CNMI by participating in activities that the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence has lined up for the month. Learn more about supporting victims and survivors by calling the coalition at 234-3878, and visiting the National Domestic Violence Hotline website at www.thehotline.org. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Probationer allegedly tests positive for 'ice'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A woman who was convicted in federal court in Guam and is serving her probation in the CNMI now faces accusations of violating her probation when she allegedly tested positive for methamphetamine or "ice."

Vickilyn Ramonica Manglona Teregeyo was summoned to explain in court why her supervised release should not be revoked.

U.S. probation officer Gregory Arriola asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to revoke Teregeyo's probation because she allegedly tested positive for use of methamphetamine on Aug. 25 and Aug. 28, submitted a diluted urine sample, and tampered with the sweat patch placed on her on Aug. 24.

Teregeyo was subjected to a drug test back on Aug. 25 when she was accused of tampering with a sweat patch placed on her that showed her positive for the use of methamphetamine and amphetamine, according to Arriola.

On Aug. 28, Teregeyo was again subjected to a drug test and she again tested positive for the use of methamphetamine and amphetamine.

When asked if she had used any illicit substances during both tests, she said no. Her urine specimen was then sent to the national drug testing laboratory for confirmatory testing. On Sept. 7, 2020, the laboratory report came back and revealed a positive result for drug use on both drug test dates, Arriola said.

Arriola also reported, based on the results, that the creatinine and specific gravity levels were "diluted," which showed she drank a large amount of fluids prior to the drug test to avoid a positive result.

When presented with the test results on Sept. 9, 2020, at a noncompliance meeting, Teregeyo maintained that she did not use drugs and denied consuming large amounts of fluids prior to being subjected to the drug test.

Prior to the drug tests, on Aug. 24, Arriola told the court that he applied a sweat patch on Teregeyo and that he applied the sweat patch without incident.

On Aug. 25, Arriola contacted Teregeyo via a video chat for a virtual inspection of the sweat patch where she informed Arriola that the patch had "come loose" so she had to use tape to keep it adhered to her arm.

Arriola then instructed Teregeyo to report to the U.S. Probation Office immediately for further inspection.

According to Arriola, upon inspection, the sweat patch on Teregeyo had no adhesion, which indicated that it had been tampered with. When confronted about it, Teregeyo denied the accusation.

After giving Teregeyo some time to think about her situation, she reported to the probation office on Sept. 10 and admitted that she consumed "asiga" or a salt mixture from a family member who had told her that the "asiga" contained "ice." According to Teregeyo, she was driving north on Beach Road some three weeks prior when she saw Lucas Manglona, a former federal offender, and a family member walking along the Garapan Fishing Base. Since Manglona was family, Teregeyo pulled over to check on him. He got inside her vehicle and, while conversing, allegedly offered her some "asiga." Teregeyo said she accepted and even complimented him for its flavor, to which he responded, "because there's 'ice' in it."

Teregeyo told Arriola that she dismissed his comment because she did not take him seriously.

When asked whether she was being truthful with her information, Teregeyo maintained the answer that she was.

Teregeyo was convicted in Guam for the offense of drug user in possession of firearm and ammunition. She was allowed by the federal court system to serve her probation in the CNMI.

Teregeyo was sentenced to three years' supervised release, which was set to expire on May 23, 2022.

DPL looks at installing railing along Managaha pier

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands is aiming to start the installation of a railing along the pier of Managaha Island by the end of this year to ensure the safety of people who visit the site.

DPL was awarded $220,652 from the Office of Insular Affairs for this purpose soon after DPL special assistant Deveney Dela Cruz successfully applied for a grant for the Managaha Safety Railing Project.

Dela Cruz and DPL's Compliance Specialist III Bernard Cabrera, along with two DPL rangers and two Department of Public Works staff, visited Managaha yesterday morning to discuss the scope of the project.

The pier has had no railing since being constructed.

Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* that they went to Managaha yesterday to inspect the pier and ensure that no details of the project are missed out.

Dela Cruz said DPW is creating the scope of work. She said the installation will begin once they complete the bidding process for the project.

Dela Cruz said they have until August 2021 to complete the project.

Last August, the Trump administration announced that the U.S Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs' Maintenance Assistance Program will be awarding $4.51 million in fiscal year 2020 grant funding to support the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The MAP funding will also support the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Burglary, theft at an apartment in Koblerville

On Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020, at about 1:12pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a theft incident at the Mangoresort Apartment complex in Koblerville.

Police dispatched to the scene met with the caller who led police to their apartment unit. The caller stated that their digital camera may have been possibly taken from the apartment while they were downstairs by the pool. The individual wanted to take a few pictures of the scenery but could not find their camera anywhere in their apartment or vehicle. After retracing their steps and looking everywhere they called for police assistance to report the camera missing. The camera is described as a black Canon camera with a beige colored Canon lens.

If you or someone you know has been approached recently by any individual offering to sell you camera or photography equipment matching the description, call 911, or if you wish to remain anonymous you may call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. ***(PR)***

TRIPLE J
35th ANNIVERSARY
SALES EVENT
HYUNDAI mazda MITSUBISHI

2015 MAZDA MAZDA3 HATCHBACK
56,995 MILES · STK: 5R219
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $15,460

2019 HYUNDAI KONA GL
16,715 MILES · STK: 9R234
SALE PRICE $17,995
KBB: $18,850

2018 HONDA CIVIC EXT
9,993 MILES · STK:18HS935
SALE PRICE $21,995
KBB: $22,425

$0 DOWN *ON APPROVED CREDIT ★ QUALITY USED CARS ★ MANY VEHICLES BELOW COST

2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS
16,979 MILES · STK:7HS824
SALE PRICE $11,995
KBB: $13,650

2018 KIA FORTE LX
10,808 MILES · STK:18HS919
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $17,676

2017 MAZDA CX-3 GT AWD
13,201 MILES · STK: 17C002
SALE PRICE $19,995
KBB: $21,583

2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS
39,201 MILES · STK:7R220
SALE PRICE $11,995
KBB: $12,682

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
9,130 MILES · STK:18HS860
SALE PRICE $15,995
KBB: $19,059

2019 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT
11,901 MILES · STK:20D135-A
SALE PRICE $19,995
KBB: $20,391

2016 TOYOTA COROLLA LE
13,135 MILES · STK:9D0030-A
SALE PRICE $13,995
KBB: $15,507

2016 KIA SEDONA LX
35,337 MILES · STK:6HS793
SALE PRICE $16,995
SOLD
KBB: $19,615

2016 MAZDA CX-5 GT
15,346 MILES · STK:6HS785
SALE PRICE $19,995
KBB: $24,640

2016 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT
53,498 MILES · STK:20M107-A
SALE PRICE $13,995
SOLD
KBB: $17,297

2019 HYUNDAI KONA L
21,017 MILES · STK:9R240
SALE PRICE $16,995
KBB: $16,992

2018 HONDA CIVIC EX-T
8,507 MILES · STK:18HS942
SALE PRICE $24,995
KBB: $24,026

2018 KIA FORTE HATCHBACK LX
99,422 MILES · STK:18HS918
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $18,614

2018 KIA OPTIMA LX
8,915 MILES · STK:18HS924
SALE PRICE $17,995
SOLD
KBB: $20,656

2015 FORD EXPEDITION PLATINUM
12,534 MILES · STK:5HS735
SALE PRICE $31,995
KBB: $40,936

2019 KIA SOUL LX
10,356 MILES · STK:19HS937
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $15,955

2018 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL
9,729 MILES · STK:8HS900
SALE PRICE $18,995
SOLD
KBB: $19,982

2019 MAZDA CX-9 SPORT
7,552 MILES · STK:18HS952
SALE PRICE $24,995
KBB: $28,153

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Sanitation stations in the showroom
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Tropical Storm Chan-Hom to become a typhoon

As Tropical Storm Chan-Hom continues to move away from the Marianas, it continues to intensify and is forecasted to become a typhoon today.

According to National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, as of 2pm yesterday Chan-Hom carries maximum sustained winds of up to 50mph and is expected to become a typhoon tonight.

Chan-Hom was seen moving west-northwest and away from the Marianas at 300 degrees at nine mph.

The center of Tropical Storm Chan-Hom was last seen located near latitude 24.0 degrees north and longitude 138.1 degrees east. This is about 790 miles northwest of Saipan, 850 miles north-northwest of Guam, and about 210 miles west-southwest of Iwo To Island.

NWS sees a slight increase of up to 10mph of forward speed is through Wednesday night.

Tropical storm force winds from Chan-Hom extends outward from the center up to 185 miles. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Asia-Pacific region's leaders tackle COVID-19 issues

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Health ministers and senior officials from countries and areas within Asia and the Pacific will be gathering virtually to agree on actions on health issues of the region and report on priorities for the World Health Organization in the Western Pacific.

The 71st session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific is being held online from Oct. 6 to Oct. 9.

At the opening ceremony yesterday, WHO briefed countries about the COVID-19 situation in the region and what they are doing in response. Delegates were able to share updates on the current situations and their needs.

"Last year, we gathered in Manila and talked about how, together, we would work toward addressing the challenges facing our region in the future," said Dr. Takeshi Kasai, WHO regional director for the Western Pacific. "In a blink of an eye, none of us could have known what was about to come, how quickly it was for the 'future' to arrive."

Kasai said that COVID-19 is currently the most challenging public health event that the world has not seen in 100 years. "It is testing not only the capacity of our health systems but also the resilience of our societies and economies," he said, adding that he's most proud of the spirit of solidarity that has characterized interactions between the countries of the region over the past nine months. In these difficult times, countries have come together in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration in recognition that "no country in our region is safe until every country is safe."

"The COVID-19 pandemic has upended our health systems, societies, and economies. This new virus may have originated in the Western Pacific, but so far, your region has reported the fewest cases and deaths," said WHO director-general Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in a video message.

Ghebreyesus believes this is no accident., adding that many countries in the Western Pacific set an example for the rest of the world for investing in emergency preparedness and response for the long-term benefits.

"Through painful experience, many of your countries have developed a strong 'muscle memory' that has helped you to prevent infections and save lives. But all countries must remain vigilant. The virus is still circulating and most people remain susceptible," said Ghebreyesus.

Philippine health secretary Dr. Francisco T. Duque III was elected chairman of this year's session. Dr. Ifereimi Waqainabete, minister of Health and Medical Services of Fiji, was elected vice chairman.

Later this week, health ministers and senior officials will deliberate and are expected to adopt resolutions to address.

Saipan energy-efficient educational campaign on Saturday

The Department of Public Works - Energy Division Office will be hosting its 2020 Drive-Thru Saipan Energy-Efficient LED Lighting Promotional and Educational Awareness Campaign on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020, from 9am to 12pm, at Garapan Fishing Base.

The Energy Division, in conjunction with its Energy Education, Efficiency and Conservation Program efforts, will be distributing eight LED light bulbs per household to assist residential consumers reduce the cost of utilities of their homes and to educate the community about the importance of preserving and protecting available natural resources in the environment through energy-efficiency and conservation efforts in the CNMI.

LED bulbs will be available for distribution on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the day and while supplies lasts.

To avail of LED Bulbs, residential consumers must present a copy of a valid government-issued ID and a copy of a most recent utility billing with name on account. If availing for a residential consumer who is unable to do so, an authorization letter from the account holder must be provided. Businesses, rental property owners or landlords are not eligible to receive LED bulbs.

In addition, due to the continued threat of COVID-19, consumers are asked to observe during the event all posted and applicable health and safety related guidance to reduce the spread of the virus.

For additional questions or information regarding this event, contact Maile Iakopo, reporting specialist, at telephone numbers 664-4480/4.

Funding opportunity for this project is made possible through grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) - State Energy Program. ***(PR)***

AUSTERITY

From Page 1

mented starting last Oct. 5.

This not only restricted PSS from being back in school but also caused a shift in its calendar year, according to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, who said that the extra day off threw a monkey wrench on PSS' already set calendar.

Fiscal year 2020 started off with austerity Fridays, when the government would essentially shut down every other Friday as a cost-saving measure. However, starting fiscal year 2021 last Oct. 1, the CNMI government shifted it to Mondays—hence Austerity Mondays—reportedly since the federal government in the U.S. mainland is closed on Sundays (Mondays in the CNMI).

According to Ada, though, this has caused a shift in their calendar because there are more holidays that fall on a Monday, which means the austerity will be implemented the next day (which means the CNMI government will close on a Tuesday).

Ada said that this will result in shortchanging their instruction time within the week, which means if there's a holiday on a Monday and austerity is on Tuesday, they have to do five days' work within the three days that they are given.

Additionally, although there are three schools that are ready to open for students starting Oct. 6: the William S. Reyes Elementary School, Marianas High School, and Tinian Junior High School, Ada said there are also some schools that are requesting to open on Oct. 14. This will give them extra time to take care of their students' devices, Mi-Fis, and inspections.

Though it might be a little off that schools are starting on different days, Ada says that this won't cause a disruption in their already set calendar because the learning packets that were distributed continues.

Ada said that whatever is in the learning packet is also in the remote learning lessons, which means there's no difference in instruction content.

As far as inspections are concerned, Ada said that some schools are scheduled for Oct. 5 and Oct. 6, that five more schools are waiting to be inspected by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the Environmental Health Disease Prevention, and PSS.

PUA

From Page 1

recipients that may be receiving checks, whether it's their first submission or their weekly benefits," he said.

Atalig also disclosed that a lot of people have converted to a manual check process and not direct deposit to their bank accounts. These are the ones who are having issues with their bank accounts and the transfer of the funds to the recipients' accounts, whether it be an error in the routing number or, as he mentioned in the past, people who state that it's a savings account when in fact it's a checking account, among other issues.

To minimize the delays, Atalig said, they decided to just convert everyone in those categories or those having issues with their bank accounts into paper checks.

However, in order for them to do paper checks, Atalig said they need Geographic Solutions that Labor has contracted to give them that data to be able to print the checks.

He said they are just waiting for Geographic Solutions to provide them that manual check register that allows them to print these checks.

"I believe we have a batch this morning [last Friday] that we're going to be doing and awaiting more as we get that information from Geographic Solutions. And we'll print them as soon as possible and get those checks in the mail," he said.

Finance has started to release $19 million more in PUA.

TESTED

From Page 1

sentee voting by electronic/mail.

CEC started accepting requests for absentee ballots last Aug. 20.

Villagomez disclosed that two big tabulating machines and four smaller ones that were bought from the Nebraska-based Election Systems and Software have already been shipped to Saipan and that the ESS technician, who arrived last Thursday, had already put the machines together and tested them. She said the technician left the CNMI last Saturday.

"Everything is okay," she said.

Rota and Tinian will each get two small tabulating machines, while Saipan will use the two big ones.

CEC decided to buy the six tabulating machines—all worth $170,000—to replace the five old machines that were "slow and obsolete."

CEC purchased the five old machines from the same Nebraska company in 2003.

EHDP

From Page 1

the market will be able to resume operations. There was no immediate word if the store has already resolved the concerns or if it has already reopened.

According to a CHCC statement, the New XO Market, which is being operated by Long Feng Corp., was shut down for allegedly violating sanitation rules and regulations of Public Laws 11-40/12-48, which are regulations governing food and drug control, and the Commonwealth Environmental Health and Sanitation Act of 2000. The CHCC statement did not specify the alleged violations.

Tenorio

According to CHCC spokesperson Lee Tenorio, EHDP received a community complaint about the New XO Market establishment last Oct. 4 and that prompted the inspection of the establishment. As soon as EHDP inspected the facility, the staff confirmed that the concern was valid, and they identified other repeated violations in food safety standards. This prompted the EHDP inspection team to temporarily suspend the store's operations until such time that the facility amends its deficiencies.

The CHCC statement said that EHDP stresses the importance of preventing foodborne illnesses, which may result from improperly processed, handled or transported food, that food service establishments must be concerned with the sound condition and safety of food as a basic requirement for the protection of public health.

"At all times, including while being stored, prepared, displayed, served, or transported, food shall be protected from potential contamination, including dust, insects, rodents, unclean equipment and utensils, unnecessary handling, coughs and sneezes, flooding, drainage, and overhead leakage or overhead drippage from condensation," the CHCC statement said. "Food, if mishandled, can become contaminated with filth, pathogenic microorganisms, and toxic chemicals from a number of sources. Therefore, food protection measures are designed to protect food from being contaminated at all times within the establishment and also intended to prevent the rapid and progressive growth of disease-causing organisms that are naturally present in foods as well as those introduced through incidental contamination in the operation of a food service establishments."

A PACIFIC SUCCESS STORY

Micronesia Challenge reaches 2020 milestone year

Fourteen years ago, five Pacific island leaders committed to the Micronesia Challenge, an agreement to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

Since then, that commitment from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the governments of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands is a globally relevant example of what can be achieved by setting ambitious, long-term goals supported by strong partnerships for significant impact.

"A better world is not something we ask for. A better world is something we build. We define a better world through consensus, with a foundation of empathy and love for other human beings. We construct a better world by acknowledging that we are who we choose to be, and then choosing to take responsibility for both ourselves and our communities," said FSM president David Panuelo during the grand opening of the 2020 Virtual Island Summit in early September.

Since 2006, the Micronesia Challenge has leveraged $82 million for conservation efforts. It has placed over 70 new areas under conservation across all jurisdictions, and there has been an improvement in science-to-management decision-making, with 20 new fisheries management policies enacted based on marine data.

The Micronesia Challenge has also led to over 70 management plans or climate change adaptation plans developed and 65 socio-economic assessments completed, and it does not stop there.

Over 95 college certificates, degrees and internships for youth and staff have been achieved through support of the Micronesia Challenge, which has worked toward building the capacity of people in local communities. The Micronesian region has also standardized marine and terrestrial monitoring protocols and developed regionwide databases through the creation of three Measures Groups (marine, terrestrial, and socioeconomic).

Panuelo said that more than 3,000 people have been trained in management, planning, marine and socioeconomic monitoring, climate change adaptation, communications and behavior change, and/or enforcement. "All told, we are protecting more than 1,300 species of fish and more than 480 species of coral," he said.

"If the issues of global warming and sustainability have taught us anything, it is that there are very few areas of the world that are not somehow connected with other areas. We as human beings thrive on interconnectivity. It is how we trade and negotiate, how we work out our differences, how we help each other, and how we benefit from each other's knowledge, consideration, and generosity," said Guam Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero as she presented at the 2020 Island Innovation Virtual Island Summit. "We know that as an island community, we must act now in order to sustain and thrive, and leave our grandchildren, great-grandchildren and future generations with an island that is as beautiful and abundant as the one we inherited from our ancestors."

While this phase of the Micronesia Challenge has seen commitments achieved by 2020, it has also opened the door to greater commitments and a stronger, united vision ahead for Micronesia, having seen the benefits through the many successes.

The five islands jurisdictions of the Micronesia Challenge will continue to work together, strengthening partnerships to lay down an even bigger challenge during the Our Ocean Conference in December this year, hosted by Palau.

"We must all congratulate Micronesia for their leadership in sustainability—their vision of nearly 15 years ago, is now coming to fruition. This commitment from Micronesia and the hard work of our five islands has led to immense benefits for their people, and our environment as a whole," said Kosi Latu, director-general of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, or SPREP. "We are proud of the accomplishments of the Micronesia Challenge, led by five island countries and territories within our SPREP membership. We look forward to being part of the journey with Micronesia as we enter the next phase of the Micronesia Challenge and all the opportunities this will bring for our planet. *Malo lava* Micronesia Challenge! Onwards and upwards!"

Working in partnership with the Micronesia Challenge, SPREP will bring you more news on this Pacific islands success story.

To learn more about the Micronesia Challenge, an early commitment from some of the world's smallest island countries, visit www.micronesiachallenge.org, add @micronesiachallenge on Instagram, or follow One Micronesia, or SPREP, on Facebook. ***(PR)***

30,000 surgical masks donated to Guam's COVID-19 response effort

From left, Guam Memorial Hospital employees Rayna Cruz, program coordinator II; Toni Tenorio, Equal Employment Opportunity officer; Daniel Celeste, messenger clerk; and Theo Pangelinan, administrative officer.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

AIDS Care China, a community support group in Guangzhou, China, for people with HIV/AIDS, recently donated 30,000 surgical masks to the University of Guam Endowment Foundation for its Guam COVID-19 Response Project.

Guam Memorial Hospital received 20,000 of the masks in September, Guam Behavioral and Wellness Center received 1,000, and 9,000 will support the work of the UOG School of Health and other front-line health care workers.

"In these unprecedented times it is wonderful to see individuals band together and to have donors from both near and far helping the community of Guam. The UOG Endowment Foundation is grateful to AIDS Care China and its executive director, Thomas Cai, for their generous support," said Katrina Perez, executive director of the UOG Endowment Foundation.

The UOG Endowment Foundation's COVID-19 Response Project is a coordinated effort among the foundation, the government of Guam, the University of Guam, and the University of California, San Francisco. ***(PR)***

SHEFA encourages recipients to go to NMC

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's never easy to choose what college to go to after graduation, which is why the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance encourages its recent recipients to enroll at the Northern Marianas College for their first two years.

SHEFA Policy and Procedures Committee chair Kaelani Demapan said her previous conversations with recipients are centered on them starting their first two years in college at NMC after high school graduation because the credits from NMC are transferable to other colleges off-island, meaning students can transfer their credits to a four-year university off-island.

Demapan understands that this might be limiting for some college students; however, it can help students with their transition to a university setting and essentially open up more doors to more scholarship programs.

Some of the perks of starting at NMC is that students save more by not paying higher tuition, dorm fees, and other expenses, Demapan said.

Additionally, this is a goal of NMC's Start Smart. In this annual event, NMC's students or alumni offer advice like different college options, financial aid opportunities, and ways to explore their college experience, for students who are about to graduate high school.

Since NMC and other Saipan-based institutions don't provide some programs, Demapan says that they are working on being flexible to provide "exemptions" to the rule that requires SHEFA scholars to return and work in the CNMI after graduating from college. Demapan added that there are a vast number of students going to colleges/universities around the world who don't return to the CNMI after they graduate. The COVID-19 pandemic has hindered the possibilities for these students to return, which is something that the committee understands, Demapan said.

So far, SHEFA has approved 653 applications for fall 2020, according to a report submitted by administrator Merissa Rasa. Of the 653 recipients, 562 are on-island students, 281 are off-island, and 84 are enrolled online.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-029

TINIAN MAUI WELL II REHABILITATION PROJECT
(W17-054)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Tinian Maui Well II Rehabilitation Project in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new pump control panel, variable frequency drive (VFD), flow meter, installation of gate valve assembly, pressure gauges, air relief valve, check valves, interior/exterior painting of the facility and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 24, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-029, *Tinian Maui Well II Rehabilitation Project"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 22, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 30, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Kensington Hotel Saipan

is ready for your weekend plans

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Have a luxurious stay at the Junior Suite for only $299 overnight stay.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Hotel's Deluxe Room B&B for only $199 overnight stay.

BEA CABRERA
Complimentary breakfast carefully prepared by pastry chef Samuel Hong and staff awaits at OHAS.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kenny Play Deck is now open for families to have a memorable and fun-filled weekend.

Cabin fever making a mess of your mental health? Feeling the need to pamper yourself with a luxurious "staycation" or maybe a one-of-a-kind get-together with family or friends?

Kensington Hotel Saipan stands ready to give you that stress-free mini-vacation with weekend packages that are just right for making fond memories with your loved ones. For just $199, stay overnight in the Deluxe Room B&B that is good for a family of five and for couples who want a romantic a getaway. This package comes with access to the swimming pool and a free Mandarina Duck back pack if you are staying for two nights.

According to KHS Sales & Marketing manager Katy Hung, this package is the most popular ever since they resumed operations in July. Early check-in starts at 10am and the late check-out is at 3pm the following day. "This gives you maximum time to do the fun things available with hotel amenities. …With the early check-in and late check-out, guests are in a way having a staycation not only overnight but for a day and a half," she said. "There are many things to do during the guests' stay, including shopping in the outlet stores. Just ask the reception and we will open the store for you. …We always value the time they spend at Kensington Hotel."

For guests who like the high floor view, which is anything above the 10th floor and is rare on island, Kensington Hotel Saipan can accommodate that.

Once inside your room, drop your bags, open the curtains and allow the blue ocean in front of you to be your backdrop during your stay. The family, splash, kiddie pools and waterslides open at 10am, so you can head there right away and pick a cabana. At noon, when the pool is closed for maintenance, have lunch or snacks at OHAS and enjoy their gourmet sandwiches, meaty and tasty hamburgers, chicken wings, pastries and sodas.

At 1pm, you can head back to the pool or go back to your room for a power nap. Come afternoon, enjoy the sun before it goes down by hanging out in the pool and beach area or head to the infinity pool and bar where you can enjoy either the pool or jacuzzi. For dinner, enjoy Loria's "Ala Minute Buffet" and go to bed with a happy tummy. The stay comes with complimentary breakfast for two at OHAS where your breakfast bento and freshly brewed coffee await.

Last month, the hotel's Kenny Play Deck reopened its doors for children guests. Just add $40 to your Deluxe Room package and you will be upgraded to "The Incredible Family" package for only $239. Aside from having access to hotel amenities, you and your children will have access to a fun-filled day at Kenny Play Deck from 10am to 5pm.

"We opened Kenny Play Deck three weeks ago based on the feedback that we got from our guests. We listened and so now the play deck is open, with many activities [available] like the ping-pong table, pool or billiard table, trampoline and our signature activities—mini foosball tables and wall climbing," she said. "Of course health and safety are our priorities, so your 'Kenny' reliable playmates will be there to assist and supervise the guests. With the play deck now open, we have more variety, especially for parents and their children."

If you want to bring your staycation to the next level, Kensington also has the ideal weekend package for you. For only $299, have a luxurious weekend in their Junior Suite and bask in a spacious room with beautiful and fancy design—good for staycations, romantic getaway and special celebrations.

"This room is also ocean view, with a bigger bed and a bathtub, spacious living room, and toiletries by the luxury brand Hermes. …We also accommodate special celebrations like birthdays, wedding proposals, honeymoon, anniversaries etc. and can help set it up. The staff can assist guest with customized parties that includes décor, cakes and drinks for additional charge," Hung said.

The Junior Suite is suited for a family of five and if there is a celebration, other friends and family may be invited but only guests can stay in the room overnight. Access to hotel amenities is included and if the children want access to the Kenny Play Deck, just add $40.

At less than $300, you have many options for a great weekend at Kensington Hotel Saipan. For more information, call (670) 322-3311.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-025

SUBMISSION DATE: November 3, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Construction of Garapan Fishing Base Dock Facility, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **September 23, 2020** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 16, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 26, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD21-ITB-001

SUBMISSION DATE: November 12, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M

"Procurement of Services for the Removal, Packaging, Containment, and Shipping of Hazardous E-Waste Materials Collected at the Transfer Station Lower Base, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the **Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station**, Saipan required for each set.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 27, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division Conference Room, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 6, 2020** to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas, Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division**, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission") hereby gives notice that the Commission will be attending the Commonwealth Lottery Commission meeting on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Governor's conference room at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Lottery Commission is scheduled to entertain Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC.'s (IPI) request for amendments to the Casino License Agreement. Three or more Casino Commission members may be present at this meeting.

/s/ Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero
Chairman

Rotary, Emon Lodge 179 team up to enhance Suicide Cliff

The Rotary Club of Saipan and Emon Masonic Lodge 179 have teamed up on a four-phased improvement plan for the historic Suicide Cliff.

The two organizations have adopted the site—known for its significance in World War II history— after signing up for the Public Private Partnership program of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, as part of the CNMI government's destination enhancement initiative.

Based on the proposal, Rotary and Emon Lodge will further improve the natural features of Suicide Cliff by planting additional trees and flowers and repainting and installing signages at the site, which is also called Laderan Banadero in Chamorro.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rotary Club of Saipan members and officials, led by president Sonya Dancoe, seated left, pose with Governor's Council of Economic Advisers co-chairs Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated center, and Jerry Tan after signing an agreement with the GCEA's Public Private Partnership program a few of months ago.

Phase 1 of the project will have the two groups planting golden shower trees along the road to the site. Phase 2 involves repairing and repainting signages and planting of bougainvillea and yellow decorative ground flowers. Both the Rotary and Emon Lodge will work on the first two phases of the project in the last two months of the year.

The two non-government organizations chose to accentuate the natural beauty of the Suicide Cliff with yellow flowers as the color symbolizes friendship and peace. "We came up with the color and design to create interest in a way that embraces the historical significance of this site and one that has purpose and meaning," said Rotary Club of Saipan president Sonya Dancoe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Emon Masonic Lodge 179 senior warden Leo Canedo, seated left, and other group representatives join Governor's Council of Economic Advisers co-chairs Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated center, and Jerry Tan for a group photo after committing to the GCEA's Public Private Partnership initiative.

For Phases 3 and 4 of the project, the Rotary and Emon Lodge will focus on the Suicide Cliff Lookout. Once the Department of Corrections and Marianas Visitors Authority have completed the repair work at the railings of the lookout, the two NGOs will take over and plant bougainvillea and yellow decorative ground flowers at the site.

Though this will be the Rotary and Emon Lodge's first partnership for a big project, the two groups are no strangers to community work. They've either led or supported beautification drives in the CNMI, made significant donations to various organizations, backed sports programs, etc.

"Community service and charitable work are principal Masonic teachings. It's our sworn duty as freemasons to serve the community," said Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 worshipful master Joel Subang.

Suicide Cliff got its name as the site in World War II where Japanese civilians and soldiers jumped to their deaths in 1944. ***(PR)***

USCG to begin testing unmanned surface vehicles off Hawaii shore

At left, a concept photo of the unmanned surface vehicle that will be demonstrated by Spatial Integrated System in the maritime domain awareness technology evaluation by the Coast Guard Research and Development Center this summer. At right, the technology evaluation will also include a SailDrone, shown here during a project with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Ocean Climate Stations. USCG

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center, in partnership with local Coast Guard units, will be conducting test and evaluation of unmanned surface vehicles off the south shore of Oahu from Oct. 7 through Nov. 5.

The tests will focus on autonomous vessel systems from Saildrone and Spatial Integration Systems, in addition to a Coast Guard-owned autonomous research vessel made by Metal Shark.

This evaluation will examine each vessels' ability to provide persistent maritime domain awareness, especially in remote areas of the oceans. While potentially applicable to many Coast Guard missions, there is potential these technologies will help enable the Coast Guard to better protect critical natural living marine resources from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and other illicit activities. ***(USCG)***

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-026

SUBMISSION DATE: October 28, 2020 TIME: 9:30 A.M

"Phase I Office Renovation for the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Facility (Building A & B), Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 13, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 20, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ GLENNA SP. REYES
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-027

SUBMISSION DATE: October 28, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M

"Phase II Office Renovation for the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Facility (Building A & B), Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **October 13, 2020**, 10:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 20, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

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/S/ GLENNA SP. REYES
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-028

SUBMISSION DATE: October 28, 2020 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"Phase 3 Office Renovation for the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Facility (Building A & B), Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ GLENNA SP. REYES
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict is Russia's problem to solve

In Washington foreign policy circles, the eruption of a geopolitical crisis anywhere on earth is portrayed as the product of U.S. disengagement. But not all of the world's problems are America's to solve, and the renewed fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia is a case in point. President Donald Trump has expressed a desire to "see if we can stop it." He's likely to do more harm than good.

The Caucasian neighbors have been in locked in a territorial dispute since Armenians took control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region and some surrounding districts from Azerbaijan after the collapse of the Soviet Union. They fought a bloody war in 1992-1994, and clashed briefly in 2016. Skirmishes resumed in July, and another war now looms.

Azerbaijan is being egged on by Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The sizable—and influential—Armenian American community would welcome Trump's intervention.

But there are no pressing U.S. interests at stake in the Caucasus. And previous American efforts at mediation don't allow for any optimism that Trump might succeed this time. In 1997, the U.S. became co-chair of the "Minsk Group" of countries that have been trying to resolve the dispute. Although this was during the zenith of American power and prestige, these efforts, which included the personal interjection of President Bill Clinton, came to naught.

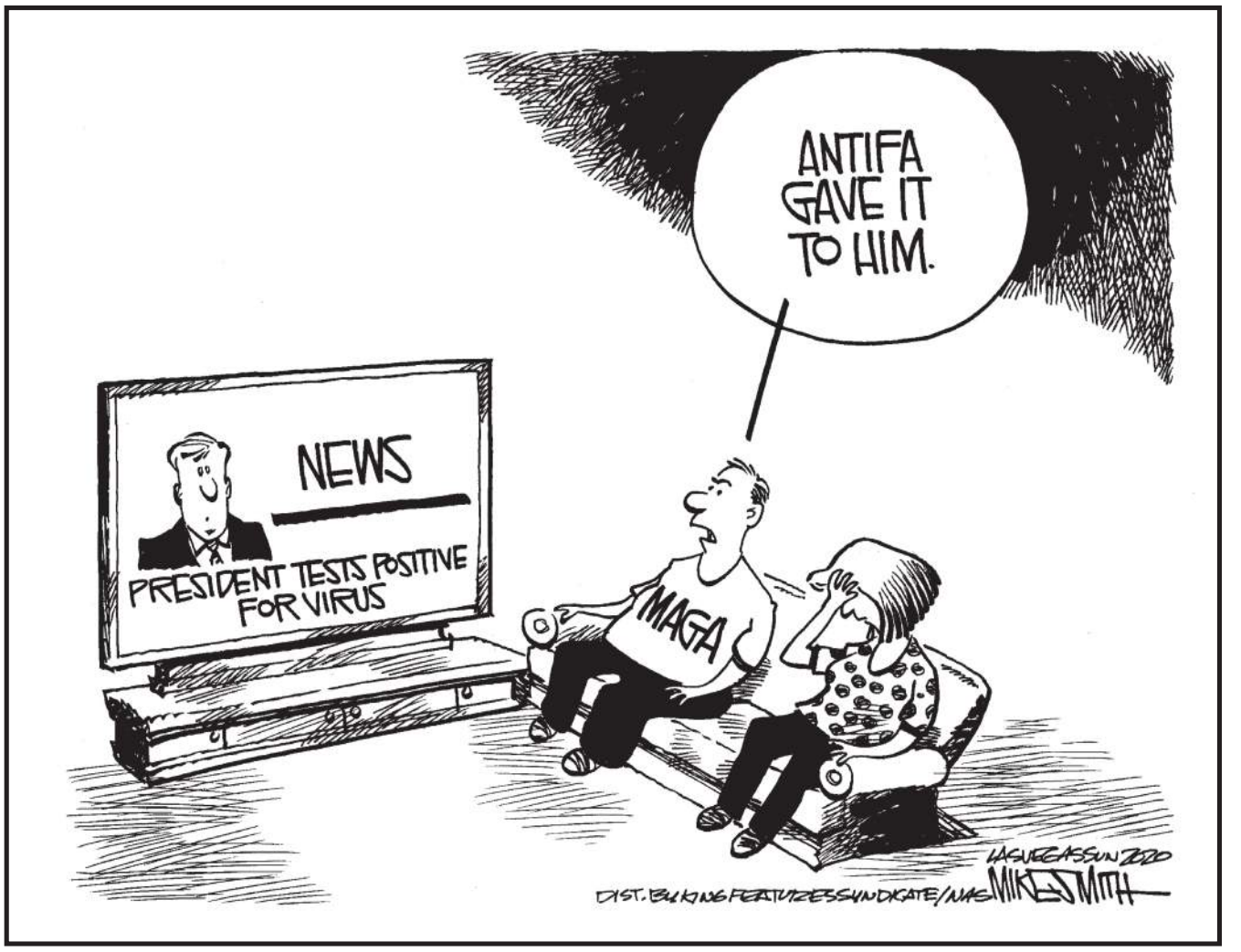
Russia has had much more success in policing the Caucasus. In 1994, it was Moscow, then at its historical nadir, that persuaded both countries to accept a ceasefire. In 2016, it was Russian pressure that prevented border clashes from turning into a full-bore war. Now Moscow is once again minded to mediate, and President Vladimir Putin is in a much better position than Trump to talk his Armenian and Azeri counterparts back from the brink. In geopolitical matters, proximity can count as much as power, and Russia has far closer cultural and political ties to the former Soviet states. As a vital trading partner and major arms supplier to both, moreover, Moscow has interests at stake and leverage to apply.

There may still be a substantive supporting role for the U.S. to play within the Minsk Group. The American imprimatur on the group's various peace plans provides both sides with the reassurance that they won't be railroaded by the Russians. Another such proposal must now be produced, requiring protracted negotiations about Nagorno-Karabakh's future. If the group can use the ongoing clashes to push through a plan for a peacekeeping force in the disputed territories, that would be a significant breakthrough.

The U.S. should stand ready provide counsel in this effort and, if it comes to that, humanitarian assistance. An American vote—or veto—may be necessary if the dispute is again brought to the United Nations.

Beyond that, a more assertive U.S. presence is unlikely to help matters. Trump has not shown the attentiveness necessary for substantive geopolitical deal-making, and his administration would be more likely to complicate this dispute than to resolve it. Washington should let Moscow lead the way.

(c) 2020 *Bloomberg News*



The format of the next presidential debate is suddenly obvious

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.the United States.

Before President Donald Trump contracted COVID-19, a strong case could be made for modifying the format of the remaining debates from face-to-face to remote. Now it's essential.

It may seem premature to consider the format of future debates before we know the seriousness of the president's condition. But at present the nation should operate under the assumption that the president is going to recover and that the campaign will go on.

The first debate was a disaster. Only those with an appreciation for rhetorical blood sport found anything uplifting or informative in the confrontation between Donald Trump and Joe Biden.

Superlatives abounded. Some called it "the worst presidential debate in history." Columnist Frank Bruni called it "the most chaotic, counterproductive and outright offensive American presidential debate" in his lifetime. CNN's Dana Bash called it a certain kind of show, using an adjective that your newspaper may not print.

The Commission on Presidential Debates, which has organized the debates since 1987, knows that it has a problem. Within 12 hours it promised new measures to inject more order into the debates. As yet, they are unspecified.

But in light of the president's infection and the fact that he may have been contagious during the first debate, the most obvious and essential change is a move to a remote format.

During Pandemic 2020, when all sorts of ordinarily face-to-face events are functioning adequately on Zoom, there is no reason for the presidential debaters to be in the same room, or even the same city. The debaters do not shake hands. No audience is present. The debates' audiences see them through television. The debaters' physical locations are irrelevant.

Further, a remote debate could be inherently more orderly. Some have suggested cutting the mics of debaters who interrupt, cross-talk or exceed their time limits. But Trump, an inveterate rule-breaker, is unlikely to be reined in by a dead mic as long as Biden is within 20 feet.

A remote debate could solve this problem. Take away from the moderator the responsibility for controlling an unmanageable speaker. Everyone's mic should be muted except for the speaker's during his prescribed time. Then the speaker is cut off, automatically and completely. Interruptions and cross-talk would be impossible.

Do away with the split-screen that poses the debaters side-by-side, thus eliminating the distracting smirks, frowns, head-shaking and eye-rolls. Give each debater his prescribed time at center-stage, during which he can say anything he wants, without interruptions.

The idea of real-time fact checkers is attractive, but in practical terms fact-checking is probably best done after the debate. Instead, let the campaigns agree beforehand on several non-partisan or bi-partisan moderators whose sole job it is to clarify particular threads of questioning, which, under the current system, tend to get steamrolled by the next interruption or outburst. In fact, let's call these extra moderators "clarifiers."

They could ask follow-up questions such as: "Mr. Biden, you didn't answer Mr. Trump's question about your willingness to 'pack' the Supreme Court for ideological balance. Will you answer that question now?"

Or "Mr. Trump, you indicated that you paid millions in income tax in 2016, while a credible source says that you paid only $750. Can you explain?"

Then let the candidate talk for a prescribed time, center-screen, without interruption or cross-talk, and see how he does.

Some may argue that the candidates need to be subjected to the pressure of a face-to-face confrontation. Maybe. But we've tried that. In the current case, it was a failure.

May Mr. Trump recover and may the debates go on. But if there is another debate, the pandemic and good order demand that it be in a remote format. The new format should begin with the vice presidential debate on Oct. 7.

It's worth remembering that the presidential debates belong to the people, not to the candidates. The debates' format should suit what best serves the people. Conducting the debates remotely would be safer, and it would also be a way of reclaiming them from candidates who refuse to play by the rules.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A legacy of chaos: What they want us to forget

Editor's Note: This is being published in two parts due to its length.

Second of a two-part series

By TINA SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christina Marie Sablan is a member of the CNMI House of Representatives of the 21st Legislature.

8. Federal raids, for the first time in CNMI history, on the Office of the Governor in November 2019. Investigators also searched the home and vehicles of the governor and his family, and the offices of Imperial Pacific International and IPI associates. The allegations under investigation involve money laundering, wire fraud, honest services fraud, conspiracy, and illegal campaign contributions by foreign nationals.

9. A failed casino development, after years of lax enforcement by the CNMI government, multiple amendments to the license and casino law, dozens of worker injuries at the construction site and at least one death. Despite its multibillion-dollar promises, IPI is today not paying taxes, license fees, vendors, land leases, workers, court judgments, or the Community Benefit Fund. IPI could also soon face major penalties and enforcement action by U.S. Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network for numerous violations of federal anti-money-laundering laws.

10. More amendments for IPI on the horizon. Basically insolvent according to audited financial statements, facing mounting lawsuits, in violation of federal and local laws as well as casino commission orders, IPI still wants to keep its gaming license. The company is seeking more amendments to the license for the ninth time since 2015, along with more changes to the casino law. The governor's lottery commission is now entertaining IPI's proposal, and some lawmakers have expressed a willingness to consider legislation to accommodate IPI once again.

11. The hiring of lobbyist Jason Osborne of Turnberry Solutions to represent the governor and the Commonwealth in Washington, D.C., raising questions about conflicts of interest and the use of public money for political purposes. In addition to being funded by CNMI taxpayers, Mr. Osborne is a lobbyist for the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., which consists of the CNMI's largest business organizations, including IPI. He is also the executive director for the CNMI Republican Party, and was a paid consultant for the Torres-Palacios campaign.

12. The shortchanging and scapegoating of the Public School System. Delayed and inadequate transfers of funds from the central government resulted in pay cuts in 2019 for PSS teachers, bus drivers, administrators, and support staff, and payless paydays in 2020. When the Board of Education finally sought relief through the courts last April, Gov. Torres issued a divisive statement blaming PSS for cuts he was making to retiree pensions.

13. The furloughs of hundreds of employees across the CNMI government. Many of these furloughs were politically driven; people were let go for reasons of "performance and loyalty," as Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero put it during a legislative hearing in July. The government's implementation of the reduction in force violated the personnel service system rules and regulations and the due process rights of employees. And, in the midst of a global pandemic, furloughed employees lost their health insurance.

14. Prolonged delays and continuing glitches in the issuance of desperately needed federal unemployment assistance. Thousands of people still wait for their checks, after months of zero income. Thousands of people face eviction, utility disconnection, vehicle repossession, loan defaults, and food insecurity.

15. Illegal overtime and double pay to Cabinet members and other public officials in times of disaster, austerity, and mass furloughs. Millions of dollars have been paid out in unlawful compensation for which the CNMI will never get reimbursed by the federal government. These funds could have been used instead to lift austerity, pay back debts, meet shortfalls affecting critical public services, or provide emergency relief to vulnerable families.

16. The cutting of power to the CNMI's only public hospital, despite Gov. Torres' assurances this would not happen. The disconnection placed public health and safety at risk, compromised hospital operations, and jeopardized accreditation. And while the hospital and ordinary citizens struggle to pay the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., taxpayers foot the bill for utilities at the private residences of the governor and lieutenant governor. There is no legal basis for this generous perk being given to the CNMI's elected chief executives.

17. Millions of dollars in COVID-19 emergency contracts awarded to the politically-connected, including friends and campaign donors of the governor. Not even the executive department heads signing off on contracts could explain how some of these sole-sourced deals were negotiated or how some companies were solicited in the first place for goods or services. Meanwhile, small local businesses lacking political ties have been denied contracting opportunities.

18. The ballooning of Executive Branch travel expenditures by 152%, from $4.6 million in 2015 to $11.6 million in 2018, according to a recent report by the Public Auditor. Gov. Torres alone has spent hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars in illegal first-class travel as well as reimbursements for many extravagant and questionable expenses.

19. The governor's promotional trip/family vacation to the Northern Islands in the summer of 2020, using scarce government resources and government personnel. The costly trip took place during a public health emergency and the worst economic crisis in the Commonwealth's history. Though billed as an "ecotourism promotion," Gov. Torres' Northern Islands expedition featured uncontrolled burning, fuel stored on the beach without containment, poaching in conservation areas, and the illegal introduction of non-native Sambar deer on Pagan.

20. Government spending out of control and four straight years of deficits: $8 million in 2017; $26 million in 2018; $88 million in 2019; $85 million in 2020. Yet, in August 2018, a few months before the general election, and despite clear signs that the government and IPI were already in deep financial trouble, Gov. Torres gave a State of the Commonwealth address, accompanied by colorful and misleading charts, in which he proclaimed a "strong" economy and a fiscal surplus, and mentioned the word "progress" 24 times.

These are just some of the things the GOP and its leadership want us to forget. This government belongs to all of us, and we have the power to change it.

The year of voting nervously, very, very nervously

By MARY SCHMICH
Chicago Tribune

Mary Schmich is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune *and winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for commentary.*

My 2020 presidential ballot came in the mail recently. I plucked it from the mailbox and held it nervously, the way you might hold a fragile heirloom or a baby or a bomb. So much power in such a small package. Handle with care.

For the next few days, I left the envelope unopened on the dining table. I'd glance at it every now and then, each time with a pang of elation and anxiety. I've never voted by mail, and it felt weird to have a ballot so far in advance of Election Day. I've always liked the communal ritual of the voting booth on deadline, saying hello to the poll workers, leaving with my little "I Voted" ticket.

But this year, in the midst of pandemic fears, I requested a mail ballot as soon as I could. By the time the ballot arrived, however, the world had changed, and I'd changed my mind. I wanted to vote in person.

Apparently a lot of people share that change of heart, so many that voting officials are worried that the polls will be swamped. The reason for the change? We're nervous.

Even if you haven't fallen for the current president's lies and threats about voting—his baseless conspiracy theories about massive mail fraud and rigged elections, on and on—it's hard to escape the uneasiness he has planted about the process.

That uneasiness is why a lot of people I know are choosing to walk their absentee ballots to a polling place or a drop-off box, even if they still believe, as I do, that the Postal Service can handle the ballots.

"Just to be on the safe side," one friend said after voting in person.

Another reported dropping off her ballot at a polling place and feeling as emotional as a parent dropping off a kid at college. "Ain't nobody suppressing this girl's vote," she declared.

"I am so paranoid," said another, "that not only am I voting early, in person, but I don't want to vote too early in case something happens to Joe Biden and I need to have my vote available for someone else. Isn't that nuts? But I can't help it. I feel like the one thing I can control about this whole mess is my vote. And I want it to count."

For all of my lifetime, until now, it was possible to acknowledge the profound failures of the American system while still believing we lived in a democracy, a country in which liberty and justice were a shared goal, if not a shared reality.

From childhood we learned that the United States was the country that helped other countries fight fascism. Now we face our own slide toward fascism—this is not an exaggeration—and there are no countries to come to our rescue. In countries where ours was once envied and admired, we're now pitied and mocked.

It's up to us to save ourselves. And the way we do that is to vote, even though many of us are more nervous about voting than ever before.

We're nervous because this vote will dramatically change the course of history, ours and the world's. We're nervous because our current president has undermined faith in the voting process, going so far as to insinuate that no matter the vote, he'll declare it illegitimate unless he wins.

But nervousness is also motivation. You could see the motivation at work Thursday in Chicago, when early voting opened at the Loop Super Site, and people lined up at 6 a.m., two and a half hours before the doors opened. In suburban locations where early voting started recently, there have been times when hundreds of people stood in line.

On Thursday, I finally opened my ballot. I spread the pages out on the table. Carefully read the instructions, as nervous as a student studying for an exam. I plan to fill it out in a few days, and when the polling place near my house opens for early voting on Oct. 14, I plan to walk it to a drop-off box there.

A while after I opened my ballot, a press release popped into my email with a subject line that said "Detox from 2020." It went on to promote "free flights and a beach vacay," which sounded pleasant.

But the best way to detox from 2020?

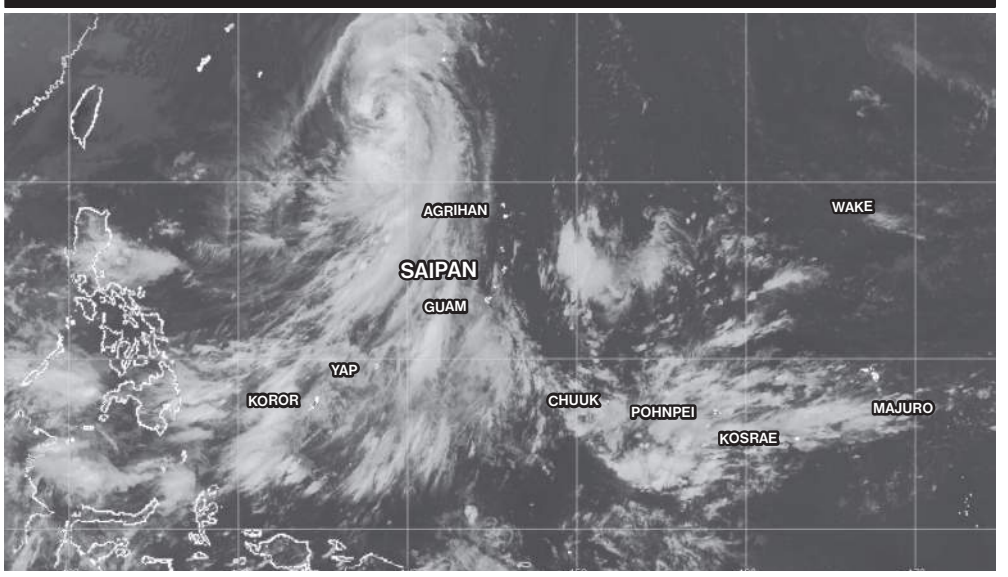
Vote. Vote early if you can. In person or by mail. Vote for the candidate who believes in democracy, and who will help preserve it so that we'll live to vote again.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 76°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:47 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A few wind gusts up to between 30 and 35 mph observed this morning. Radar shows patches of showers with similar conditions downwind of the islands. Visible imagery depicts the circulation to our southwest this morning. This circulation is probably pumping up the winds slightly over the area. Since it will be there through the day updated for slightly elevated winds.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	5:59 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:10 AM	9:44 PM
Thursday	-	11:02 AM	10:32 PM
Friday	-	11:55 AM	11:23 PM
Saturday	-	12:48 PM	-
Sunday	2:19 AM	1:41 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 55°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	68° / 48°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	86° / 73°
Honolulu	Windy	84° / 75°
London	Cloudy	64° / 54°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	77° / 63°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	74° / 57°
Osaka	Rain	70° / 61°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
Busan	Sunny	68° / 57°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	73° / 54°
Salem	Sunny	78° / 52°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 52°
Seoul	Sunny	70° / 46°
Tokyo	Rain	63° / 59°
Washington, DC	Sunny	73° / 54°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:36 AM	LOW TIDE	0.12
11:30 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.63
5:07 PM	LOW TIDE	1.11
9:58 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.57

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	9:05pm	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

IT&E to acquire iCONNECT's telecommunication assets

IT&E and iCONNECT announced that IT&E will acquire iCONNECT's telecommunications assets in Guam and the CNMI, including its wireless network, Integrated Digital Enhanced Network (iDEN) known as Push-To-Talk, and customer base.

The transaction brings together two true telecommunications innovators in Guam and the Marianas.

As a result of the acquisition, IT&E and iCONNECT subscribers will enjoy enhanced services and expanded wireless broadband experience in the CNMI and Guam at no additional cost.

"IT&E and iCONNECT share a dedication to keeping the communities of Guam and the CNMI connected to the world with leading-edge technology. The acquisition will allow us to continue with our improvements to our network coverage and data capabilities in Guam and the CNMI. iCONNECT has been serving the island communities for more than 20 years and is a pioneer in the local telecommunications industry. We're proud to add to that legacy and continue serving the islands far into the future," said IT&E CEO Jim Oehlerking.

NEIL FAMA

IT&E has acquired iCONNECT. Photo shows both companies' offices in Chalan Kiya adjacent to each other.

"Upon completion of the customer migration, iCONNECT customers will start to reap the benefits of IT&E's advanced network and innovative capabilities in Guam and the CNMI and will further enjoy the advances of ITE's 5G network upon rollout. iCONNECT is thrilled with IT&E's plans that will benefit all of its customers moving forward," said iCONNECT CFO Rene C. Lao.

The deal was signed on Sept. 22, 2020. Commencing on Oct. 1, all iCONNECT postpaid and prepaid subscribers will begin a transition to IT&E over a period of 90 days. During this transition, iCONNECT will continue to operate its network and retail locations. iDEN services will continue uninterrupted, as well.

With the transfer to IT&E, iCONNECT subscribers will continue to enjoy existing services and offerings. In addition, subscribers' phone numbers will remain the same and subscribers will be advised if a SIM card replacement is required.

iCONNECT subscribers are advised to continue to pay their bill and seek assistance online on the iCONNECT website or at any iCONNECT store until provided with additional instructions.

ABOUT IT&E

For more than 35 years, the communities of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands have relied on IT&E to keep them connected to each other and the world. A world-class telecommunications provider, IT&E serves 120,000 subscribers in the region. IT&E built the first undersea fiber optic cable linking the CNMI to the Trans-Pacific cable hub in Guam in 1997. In 2012, IT&E launched the first true LTE network on Guam and 3.5 HSPA+ in the CNMI; and rolled out Fiber Internet to homes in the CNMI in 2017.

» Unites 2 telecommunications innovators in region

ABOUT iCONNECT

iCONNECT has been providing telecommunications services and products on Guam, the Marianas, and the Western Pacific for more than 20 years. In 1999, iCONNECT took over Motorola's existing mobile radio network on Guam and Saipan and deployed a specialized mobile radio service launching in the year 2000. Two years after its debut on Guam, iCONNECT extended its services to Saipan, Rota and Tinian. With its signature iDEN Push-To-Talk digital radio and cellular services, 4G LTE mobile internet data, calling and messaging services, iCONNECT has kept true to its commitment to bring affordable and latest technology telecommunications services to the Marianas. ***(PR)***

Saipan Vegas looking for local talent

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Vegas Golf Resort & Slot Club located along Middle Road is looking for a variety of entertainers that have the confidence, charisma, a knack for captivating the audience, and exceptional skills and talent to be a part of special dinner shows that will be held at their restaurant—Rendezvous International Cuisine.

According to SV Players Club and marketing manager Patrick Tudela, they do not have an expected number of people who will come to the auditions. "We would like the community to audition… We are looking for something exciting, somewhat unique, and entertaining …We would like to encourage our local community to participate in this event for financial opportunities," he said.

"Once the auditions are complete by the end of October, we will announce our winner(s) and make a contract deal to perform at least once a week for our Dinner & Show at the Rendezvous International Cuisine starting in November… We have nothing specific that we want but we would like to see something like Las Vegas shows have for example, dancers like the Jabbawokeez, singing impersonators like Frank Sinatra, magic like Chris Angel, or a variety show like the one at Planet Hollywood," he added.

BEA CABRERA

Saipan Vegas Golf Resort & Slot Club is expanding its lineup of entertainment adding Dinner & Show specials to be held at Rendezvous International Cuisine starting next month.

Since the announcement came out last week, Tudela said that they have a Carolinian Mass Dance for audition on Friday, Oct. 9. and a magician on Saturday, Oct. 10.

One of the talents that is scheduled for audition this weekend said that it is another great opportunity to showcase the abundance of talent we have in Saipan. "Many extremely talented people are here on island and it is also a way of inspiring others to show their talents as well. I hope other businesses can see and take this initiative and example by Saipan Vegas and try it out for their businesses," he said.

Tudela said that the Dinner & Show at the Rendezvous International Cuisine is a welcome expansion. "We want to offer our local community to experience watching a live show while having dinner for a reasonable price. People have more reasons to come to Saipan Vegas aside from gaming, golf, bingo games, karaoke night that happens in their other outlet—Bamboo Bar every Thursday and live band entertainment every Friday and Saturday."

We would like to have at least one Dinner & Show every Friday, Saturday,and Sunday and one performer for each day… whether they are experienced or inexperienced entertainers, we encourage everyone to audition to give us a feel of what they can bring to the stage…we encourage all ages to audition," he added.

For more information, call Saipan Vegas at (670) 285-3416. Saipan Vegas Golf Resort & Slot Club is located on Chalan Kiya along Middle Road.

Survey: Business economists see coronavirus as biggest risk

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy faces risks from a potential resurgence of the coronavirus and from the failure so far of Congress to provide additional financial support for struggling individuals and businesses.

That judgment emerges from a survey released Monday by the National Association for Business Economics of 52 forecasters who were polled last month. Among the forecasters, 55% said they regarded a second wave of COVID-19 cases as the most serious threat. Of those surveyed, 20% thought a lack of further government economic aid would pose the biggest risk.

The inability of Democrats and Republicans to forge a compromise has meant that unemployed Americans are no longer receiving a federal unemployment benefit. Support for small businesses has also expired. States and localities, many of which have suffered sharp declines in tax revenue, are struggling, too, without further federal assistance.

Similar to many other economists, the NABE's forecasters have estimated that the economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew at a 25% annual rate in the just-ended July-September quarter. That would be the largest quarterly gain on records dating to 1947. But it would follow an even bigger contraction in the April-June quarter, when the coronavirus paralyzed much of the economy. For the current October-December quarter, the NABE panel foresees a 4.9% annual growth rate.

The recovery from the pandemic recession, in the view of the forecasters, will remain sluggish in coming months. A majority of them don't expect GDP to return to its pre-pandemic levels until sometime in 2022.

For all of 2020, the panel expects GDP to decline 4.3%. That would be the economy's first full-year contraction since a 2.5% fall in 2009 at the end of the Great Recession. For 2021, the forecasters expect growth of 3.6%.

"NABE panelists have become more optimistic, on balance, but remain concerned about a potential second-wave of COVID-19," noted Eugenio Aleman, an economist at Wells Fargo Bank and the chair of the NABE survey panel.

On the danger that the economy might suffer a double-dip recession, in which GDP would shrink again, 51% of the forecasters estimate the chances at 20% or less. Only 12% see the likelihood at 50% or more.

Nation

Trump, still infectious, back at White House—without mask

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—President Donald Trump staged a dramatic return to the White House Monday night after leaving the military hospital where he was receiving an unprecedented level of care for COVID-19. He immediately ignited a new controversy by declaring that despite his illness the nation should not fear the virus that has killed more than 210,000 Americans—and then he entered the White House without a protective mask.

Trump's message alarmed infectious disease experts and suggested the president's own illness had not caused him to rethink his often-cavalier attitude toward the disease, which has also infected the first lady and several White House aides, including new cases revealed Monday.

Landing at the White House on Marine One, Trump gingerly climbed the South Portico steps, removed his mask and declared, "I feel good." He gave a double thumbs-up to the departing helicopter from the portico terrace, where aides had arranged American flags for the sunset occasion. He entered the White House, where aides were visible milling about the Blue Room, without wearing a face covering.

The president left Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where his doctor, Navy Cmdr. Sean Conley, said earlier Monday that the president remains contagious and would not be fully "out of the woods" for another week but that Trump had met or exceeded standards for discharge from the hospital. Trump is expected to continue his recovery at the White House, where the reach of the outbreak that has infected the highest levels of the U.S. government is still being uncovered.

Still, just a month before the election and anxious to project strength, Trump tweeted before leaving the hospital, "Will be back on the Campaign Trail soon!!!" And in case anyone missed his don't-worry message earlier, he rushed out a new video from the White House.

"Don't be afraid of it," Trump said of the virus. "You're going to beat it. We have the best medical equipment, we have the best medicines." His remarks were strong, but he was taking deeper breaths than usual as he delivered them.

Trump's nonchalant message about not fearing the virus comes as his own administration has encouraged Americans to be very careful and take precautions to avoid contracting and spreading the disease as cases continue to spike across the country. For more than eight months, Trump's efforts to play down the threat of the virus in hopes of propping up the economy ahead of the election have drawn bipartisan criticism.

"We have to be realistic in this: COVID is a complete threat to the American population," Dr. David Nace of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, said of Trump's comment.

"Most of the people aren't so lucky as the president," with an in-house medical unit and access to experimental treatments, added Nace, an expert on infections in older adults.

"It's an unconscionable message," agreed Dr. Sadiya Khan of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. "I would go so far as to say that it may precipitate or worsen spread."

Likewise, Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, who spent more than 90 minutes on the debate stage with Trump last week, said during an NBC town hall Monday night that he was glad Trump seemed to be recovering well, "but there's a lot to be concerned about -- 210,000 people have died. I hope no one walks away with the message that it's not a problem." Biden tested negative for the virus on Sunday.

AP

President Donald Trump stands on the balcony outside of the Blue Room as returns to the White House Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, in Washington, after leaving Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, in Bethesda, Md. Trump announced he tested positive for COVID-19 on Oct. 2.

210K in US have died from virus

WASHINGTON (AP)—Now that he has contracted COVID-19, President Donald Trump says he does "get it." That revelation, seven months into the pandemic and after almost 210,000 American deaths, is not the first time he has relied on personal experience to shape his views.

He said he now "understands" the virus. But because of his own experience, as a patient at one of the nation's finest medical facilities with treatment options available to very few, the president also reinforced that he has struggled to relate with everyday Americans, millions of whom have lost their jobs because of the coronavirus.

» Now Trump says he 'gets it'

Instead, as he has in relationships with other countries, he has prioritized his own personal experience over that of experts. He has been reluctant, for instance, to call out Russian President Vladimir Putin over interference in American elections in the face of clear evidence from the U.S. intelligence community that it has occurred.

He has also drawn frequently on his experience with the business world or his own family to set the White House agenda. He cited his business acumen as helping him land a deal for the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, and he said he understands the airline industry because of his time running the failed Trump Shuttle.

Despite months of briefings from the nation's leading infectious disease experts, it was the onset of his own symptoms, as he was brought low by a lethal virus, that he said gave him a greater understanding.

That understanding, however, seemed very much in conflict with expert public health guidance about how the virus behaves and the precautions that people infected, particularly those in a higher risk group like the president, need to take.

"It's been a very interesting journey," Trump said in a video released Sunday night. "I learned a lot about COVID. I learned it by really going to school. This is the real school. And I get it, and I understand it, and it's a very interesting thing, and I'm going to be letting you know about it."

But it soon became clear that he did not, in fact, get it.

Trump took a surprise ride in a motorcade to pay tribute to his supporters, potentially exposing the Secret Service agents who rode in the vehicle with him. The next day, when announcing that he would be returning to the White House, he took a tone that suggested he was out of touch with suffering Americans who could not receive the same level of presidential care.

Biden aims to expand map as Trump recovers from coronavirus

MIAMI (AP)—As President Donald Trump recovers from the coronavirus, Joe Biden is capitalizing on having the campaign trail largely to himself by hitting critical swing states and investing in longtime Republican bastions that he hopes might expand his path to victory.

The Democratic presidential nominee made his second trip to Florida in a little over two weeks on Monday. His visit to Miami was designed to encroach on some of Trump's turf, even swinging through Little Havana, a typically conservative area known for its staunch opposition to the communist government that Fidel Castro installed in Cuba.

He'll follow up with a trip later this week to Arizona, which hasn't backed a Democratic presidential candidate since 1996. Even Biden's former primary rival, Bernie Sanders, has resumed in-person campaigning for the first time since the coronavirus outbreak in March. The progressive Vermont senator held socially distanced rallies in the battlegrounds of New Hampshire and Michigan, proclaiming, "We need Joe Biden as our president."

Sitting on a massive pile of campaign cash less than a month before Election Day, Biden is trying to put Trump on defense across the country and build an advantage in the Electoral College so large that the president might struggle to contest it. That's especially important since Trump, who lost the popular vote in 2016, has said he may not accept the election results this year and has raised unfounded allegations that the increased use of mail-in voting amid the coronavirus pandemic could lead to fraud.

Biden is complementing the expanded campaign travel with a late-stage ad push, reserving more than $6 million in television airtime in Texas — for decades deeply red — through the end of October, according to an Associated Press analysis of CMAG data. He also plans to spend $4 million on advertising in Georgia, another Republican-leaning state that Democrats are feeling bullish about.

Trump, meanwhile, has scaled back advertising in both states and has begun doing the same in Ohio, which he also won in 2016.

"2020 is not 2016. The 'Dems in disarray,' fretting that we're going to go too far, that's not the reality this time," said Kelly Dietrich, founder of the National Democratic Training Committee, which has worked with around 1,500 of the party's candidates for offices nationwide this cycle. "They are running a solid race focused on the swing states we need to win but now have excess resources to expand the map."

As Election Day nears, Democrats are still stung by the 2016 campaign, when Hillary Clinton focused on Republican-leaning states like North Carolina and Arizona in the final weeks, only to lose ones that long supported Democrats, including Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

Democratic strategist Brad Bannon said, "It would be a mistake for Biden to take his foot off the pedal," but added, "I wouldn't want Biden to make the same mistake Clinton did."

Asia

IN DRUG CRACKDOWN

PH Duterte suspects extrajudicial killings

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said that like his fierce critics, he has also suspected that extrajudicial killings may have happened under his drug crackdown that has killed thousands of people.

He said in televised remarks Monday night he had once inquired into the brutal deaths and was told some drug dealers may have been killed due to rivalry among syndicates or for stealing drug money.

More than 5,800 suspects have been killed and 256,000 arrested since Duterte took office in mid-2016. Human rights groups have alleged many of the killings were rub-outs, but Duterte and the police said that most were suspects who were gunned down when they fought back.

Western governments have called for an independent investigation into the killings, which have continued even during the coronavirus pandemic, but Duterte has dismissed such calls as meddling into his country's affairs.

"This extrajudicial killing, they have been harping for many years. Truthfully, I also suspect, and there was a time when I conducted a discreet hearing," the brash-talking Duterte said.

Duterte

"What reached me is that, sometimes, there is a rivalry of the turf," he said, adding that other drug dealers may have been killed by gangsters for running away with the drugs and the money.

"I know that, whether I like it or not, there is a war going on. I cannot stop the killings, the killing of criminals and the killing of my soldiers and policemen," he said.

An International Criminal Court prosecutor has been examining complaints of crimes against humanity over the drug killings under Duterte but has not declared whether there is adequate evidence to start a formal inquiry.

Duterte also Tuesday ordered authorities to destroy large volumes of seized drugs in one week, citing past instances when seized drugs were resold by rogue officers. Only a small part of the confiscated drugs should be stored as evidence in ongoing drug trafficking cases, Duterte said, and expressed hope the courts would allow the move. He said he plans to inspect seized drugs stored in warehouses.

"Why do we have to put on our shoulder the burden of keeping a contraband or merchandise that can be stolen and used, and recycled? Duterte asked. "Because of the huge amount of shabu that we cannot guard every day, even one spoonful of it that gets lost, the government will get the blame."

Shabu is the local name for methamphetamine, a prohibited stimulant widely trafficked in the Philippines. Since his crackdown started in 2016, more than 7,000 kilograms of methamphetamine, with a street value of 53 billion pesos ($1 billion), have been seized, along with smaller quantities of cocaine, marijuana and party drugs, officials said.

US, Australia, India, and Japan to discuss China's growing power

TOKYO (AP)—Foreign ministers from four Indo-Pacific nations known as the Quad group are gathering in Tokyo on Tuesday for talks that Japan hopes will increase their involvement in a regional initiative called "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" aimed at countering China's growing assertiveness.

The meeting—the first in-person talks among the foreign ministers since the coronavirus pandemic broke out—brings together U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne, Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi.

Japanese officials say they will discuss the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, as well as the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) initiative for greater security and economic cooperation that Japan and the U.S. have been pushing to bring together "like-minded" countries that share concerns about China's growing assertiveness and influence.

On his way to Tokyo, Pompeo told reporters that the four countries hope to have some "significant achievements" at the meeting, but did not elaborate.

The talks come weeks ahead of the U.S. presidential election and amid escalating tensions between the U.S. and China over the virus, trade, technology, Hong Kong, Taiwan and human rights. Pompeo is attending the Quad meeting, though he canceled subsequent planned visits to South Korea and Mongolia after President Donald Trump was hospitalized with the coronavirus.

The talks follow a recent flareup in tensions between China and India over their disputed Himalayan border. Relations between Australia and China have also deteriorated in recent months.

Japan, meanwhile, is concerned about China's claim to the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands, called Diaoyu in China, in the East China Sea. Japan also considers China's growing military activity to be a security threat. Japan's annual defense policy paper in July accused China of unilaterally changing the status quo in the South China Sea, where it has built and militarized manmade islands and is assertively pressing its claim to virtually all of the sea's key fisheries and waterways.

New Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga will make his in-person diplomatic debut when he attends part of the Quad meeting. He will also hold separate talks with Pompeo on deepening the Japan-U.S. alliance and the FOIP.

World

Paris on maximum virus alert

PARIS (AP)—French authorities placed the Paris region on maximum virus alert on Monday, banning festive gatherings and requiring all bars to close but allowing restaurants to remain open, as numbers of infections increased rapidly.

AP

In this Sept.26, 2020 file photo, people enjoy a drink in a cafe terrace in Paris. French authorities have placed the Paris region on maximum virus alert on Monday, banning festive gatherings and requiring all bars to close but allowing restaurants to remain open, as numbers of infections are rapidly increasing.

Paris police prefect Didier Lallement announced the new restrictions would apply at least for the next two weeks.

"We are continuously adapting to the reality of the virus. We are taking measures to slow down (its spread)," he said.

French authorities consider bars to be major infection hot spots because patrons don't respect social distancing rules as much as they do at restaurants.

Starting on Tuesday, bars will be closed in Paris and its suburbs. Student parties and all other festive and family events in establishments open to the public will be banned.

Restaurants will remain open under strict conditions. They include a minimum one-meter (three-foot) distance between each table, groups limited to six people instead of 10 previously, and a request to register customers' names and phone numbers to help alert those who may have been exposed to someone with the coronavirus .

Indoor sport facilities, including swimming pools, will only be open to children aged under 18. Gyms are already closed.

Cinemas, theaters and museums will remain open with strict sanitary rules, but fairs and professional shows won't be allowed.

Authorities have maintained the limit of 1,000 spectators per day at big sports events, allowing the Roland-Garros tennis tournament to continue as planned this week.

The director of the Regional Health Authority, Aurelien Rousseau, said about 3,500 new cases of infection are confirmed on average each day in the Paris region, and 36% of ICU beds in the area are occupied by COVID-19 patients.

The owner of one Paris eatery north of the Bastille felt relief that the measures mean only reasonable constraints for restaurants. He even saw a silver lining.

"I'm relieved that I don't have to close and that the rules are not more stringent," said Virgil Grunberg, who owns Le Square Gardette.

"It's even worse for bars, because they are going to be closed, so people are going to need places to have a drink and hang out," Grunberg said. "So I think (customers) are not going to be scared by the new restrictions."

For Adele Fardoux, 26, a client at Cafe des Anges around the corner from the Place de la Bastille, there is some logic to what sometimes feels "like it's a mess."

WHO: 10% of the world's people may have been infected with virus

GENEVA (AP)—The head of emergencies at the World Health Organization said Monday the agency's "best estimates" indicate roughly 1 in 10 people worldwide may have been infected by the coronavirus—more than 20 times the number of confirmed cases—and warned of a difficult period ahead.

Dr. Michael Ryan, speaking to a special session of the WHO's 34-member executive board focusing on COVID-19, said the figures vary from urban to rural areas, and between different groups, but that ultimately it means "the vast majority of the world remains at risk." He said the pandemic would continue to evolve, but that tools exist to suppress transmission and save lives.

"Many deaths have been averted and many more lives can be protected," Ryan said. He was flanked by his boss, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who minutes earlier led a moment of silence to honor victims, as well as a round of applause for the health workers who have strived to save them.

Ryan said southeast Asia faced a surge in cases, Europe and the eastern Mediterranean were seeing an increase, while the situations in Africa and the Western Pacific were "rather more positive." Overall, though, he said the world was "heading into a difficult period."

"The disease continues to spread. It is on the rise in many parts of the world," Ryan told attendees from governments who make up the executive board and provide much of the WHO's funding. "Our current best estimates tell us that about 10 percent of the global population may have been infected by this virus."

The estimate—which would amount to more than 760 million people based on a current world population of about 7.6 billion—far outstrips the number of confirmed cases as tallied by both the WHO and Johns Hopkins University, now more than 35 million worldwide. Experts have long said that the number of confirmed cases greatly undershoots the true figure.

Ryan did not elaborate on the estimate. Dr. Margaret Harris, a WHO spokeswoman, said it was based on an average of antibody studies conducted around the world. She said the estimated 90 percent of people remaining without infection means the virus has "opportunity" to spread further "if we don't take action to stop it" such as by contact-tracing and tracking of cases by health officials.

Good Housekeeping

AP
In this July 21, 2020, file photo, a homeowner tours their new home, in Washingtonville, N.Y.

Upgrading your space while stuck at home? Get it insured

By BEN MOORE
NERDWALLET

As many Americans face months on end stuck indoors, some are using their time (and money) to create a change of scenery or upgrade their surroundings. Office equipment purchases are on the rise, and people are tackling more renovation projects than usual.

But expensive new stuff and significant home improvements can leave you underinsured. If you're considering making changes to your home—or if you already have —it's smart to revisit your homeowners or renters policy. Here's how to ensure it covers the new additions.

TELL YOUR INSURER ABOUT YOUR PLANS

There's a good chance you're underinsured before you even make changes, according to Don Griffin, vice president of personal lines at American Property Casualty Insurance Association. Talk to your insurer before making any expensive purchases or changes to your home to inform the company of your plans and clarify your policy's current coverages and limits. If your home costs more to replace after you've improved it, some insurers will pay the new expense to rebuild, but "that's not every policy, and it may not cover everything you need," Griffin says. He also recommends once a year reviewing what your home insurance policy covers.

In some cases, you may need to change carriers to get the coverage you need. Frank Jones, an independent agent and partner at Mints Insurance Agency in Millville, New Jersey, has seen clients switch insurers because an addition wasn't covered. "It's in your best interest to have these conversations now rather than to have a claim denied," he says.

A new desk and computer for remote learning, plus that monitor and chair in your home office will add up and could exceed your personal property coverage limit.

Renters insurance policies cover your stuff, but they have limits too. If you have new electronics or office equipment, check with your insurer to make sure you have enough coverage for them.

MAKE AN INVENTORY OF YOUR PROPERTY

To help you know if you've exceeded your policy limits, keep records of what you buy. In fact, Griffin recommends taking inventory of your belongings every year — a written inventory is best, but even a simple smartphone video tour of your home will suffice.

Losing a home is an emotional time, Griffin says. When it's time to file a claim, "you don't always remember what you have." An inventory will clearly show what you had before a disaster and will make the claims process easier.

ADD SUFFICIENT COVERAGE

Structural changes, such as a full kitchen replacement or adding an in-ground pool, will have the greatest impact on your homeowners insurance. But even something as simple as adding a fence can change the value of your house, and if your home's value increases, so should its dwelling coverage, Griffin says. Otherwise, in the event of a claim, your insurance policy won't be enough to rebuild, according to Griffin.

When adding coverage, pay attention to how much it would cost to rebuild your home, not how much you spent to upgrade the house, according to Jones. "These are two different numbers," he explains. "If an addition costs $20,000 to put on, the insurance company looks at the rebuild construction cost, and you might not get that back."

AVOID PITFALLS

On top of ensuring coverage, a proactive conversation with your agent could help you avoid potential renovation pitfalls. For example, he or she may advise adding building ordinance coverage to protect you from having to pay out of pocket for any expenses that keep your home compliant with local laws and regulations.

For renovation projects that are too big to take on yourself, hire a licensed and bonded contractor who carries builders risk coverage to protect expensive construction materials from theft or damage while they are on your property. You can find one through a building trade association.

And when you're doing a home renovation project, take plenty of photos — before, after, and along the way, if you're able. These could come in handy if you file a claim and need to redo the work.

This article was provided to The Associated Press by the personal finance website NerdWallet. Ben Moore is a writer at NerdWallet. Email: bmoore@nerdwallet.com.

Don't let your home's infrastructure crumble

By DEBBIE CARLSON
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

It's no secret that U.S. infrastructure is crumbling, but is your home's infrastructure in good shape?

Maintaining key features that make a home livable will save money down the road and may even fall under critical life-safety issues. These home maintenance checkups aren't sexy or fun, but they are necessary to keep a house in top shape.

While everything in a house eventually needs to be replaced, home experts flagged their top three infrastructure areas to maintain.

The home's structure. A home's roof, foundation and frame are equally critical to a livable home. Pat Knight, training, licensing and inspection support manager of WIN Home Inspection, a national home inspection franchise, said to keep an eye on the roof as the seasons change, making sure the surface is free from debris and there is no damage. Get gutters cleaned, and make sure they're draining properly away from the home. Fall is a good time to get your gutters cleaned.

Checking the roof can be as simple as using a pair of binoculars from the yard, or it could mean hiring a company to inspect for potential damage up close.

"Deferred maintenance can drastically reduce the life expectancy of the roof, and replacement is expensive," he said.

Keep an eye on the home's bottom too. Angie Hicks, founder of Angie's List, a home services directory, says the fall season is a great time to check the home's foundation.

"If there's too much water—or too little—it will become the No. 1 cause for giving your foundation a shakeup," she said.

It can be difficult to get the moisture content right consistently, so Hicks gave a few tips. Ensure proper drainage away from the structure's surface, which can otherwise compromise the foundation's integrity. Subsurface or French drains can help in regions where too little moisture is an issue, as can a strategic sprinkler system that prevents extreme drying/shrinking of the surrounding soil.

While looking at the foundation, look out for insects like carpenter ants or termites, especially in homes with wooden frames, said Beverley Kruskol, owner of M.Y. Pacific Building, a general contractor who has worked with high-end renovations, including for Mario Batali's restaurants in Los Angeles.

With climate change, insects like termites can now be a problem in areas that previously never had problems with these bugs. Termites cause significant damage and can migrate from other homes, too, she said.

Heating/cooling system. Having the home's HVAC system maintained yearly by a qualified company will prevent major breakdowns happening at just the wrong time, said Knight and Hicks.

"Waiting until you need a repair will cost you dearly, especially if there is a cold snap or a heat wave," Knight said.

In between professional maintenance, Hicks said, homeowners should change the filters regularly, do their own visual inspections and keep an eye on the thermostat.

"These are three quick and easy things you can do yourself to ensure the longest life for your HVAC system," she said.

Plumbing. Leaky faucets and overflowing toilets are obvious signs of problems, but stealth leaks can cause a lot of damage, Kruskol said, such as mold.

"It's really not a bad idea to have a plumber come out periodically and check the system. Roots can grow into pipes. Sprinklers end up splashing against the house, which can deteriorate outdoor brick, stucco and foundations," she said.

Keep an eye on water bills, and don't let leaky faucets go dripping, especially for environmental considerations.

"It's a problem for all of us. Yes, water rates are higher, but we're all going to be affected by the lack of water," she said.

Life & Style

Hundreds of Regal, Cineworld movie theaters to close

LONDON (AP)—In the latest blow to the beleaguered film industry, the second-largest movie theater chain in the U.S. is temporarily shuttering its locations Thursday due to a lack of blockbusters on the calendar and major domestic markets like New York remaining closed.

Cineworld Group Plc said Monday that it would close 536 Regal cinemas in the U.S. and 127 Cineworld and Picturehouse venues in the U.K. this week, affecting some 45,000 employees.

"This is not a decision we made lightly," said Cineworld CEO Mooky Greidinger.

In the past few days, the already decimated 2020 release calendar lost another big film in the James Bond pic "No Time to Die." It is at least partly due to the fact that one of the country's biggest markets, New York, has not committed to a plan or a date for reopening cinemas in the state.

Cineworld has high debts and is, like the wider industry, struggling with the effects of the pandemic. The absence of the biggest North American markets and a consistent, solid release schedule from Hollywood studios have been devastating to their business.

"We never argued the fact that we needed to be closed until we saw that similar activities to us started to open," Greidinger said, citing indoor dining. "We cannot be in a situation where we lose more cash when we are open than we lose when we are closed."

Last week groups representing theater owners, movie studios and directors issued a plea to U.S. lawmakers to provide relief to ailing movie theaters. The letter, signed by the likes of Steven Spielberg, Christopher Nolan, Patty Jenkins, Clint Eastwood and Martin Scorsese, said that if the status quo continues, nearly 70% of small to mid-size movie theaters could be forced to close permanently.

Efforts to slow the spread of the virus resulted in closure of most cinemas for nearly six months. Many started tentatively reopening in late August, anticipating the release of money-making blockbusters, like Nolan's "Tenet," the Bond pic "No Time to Die" and Marvel's "Black Widow."

Exhibitors also poured resources into enhanced safety and sanitization protocols, including limited capacity theaters, social distanced seating, cashless transactions and staggered showtimes.

But ticket sales for Warner Bros.' "Tenet," the first major film out of the gates, were not as strong in the U.S. as hoped, likely a combination of audience reluctance to return to theaters and the effects of big markets like New York and Los Angeles remaining closed. While some analysts stress that films need to play the "long game" at the box office in this current environment, studios responded by delaying most other major films that had been set for the fall and winter.

Bruce Springsteen will offer a documentary with new album

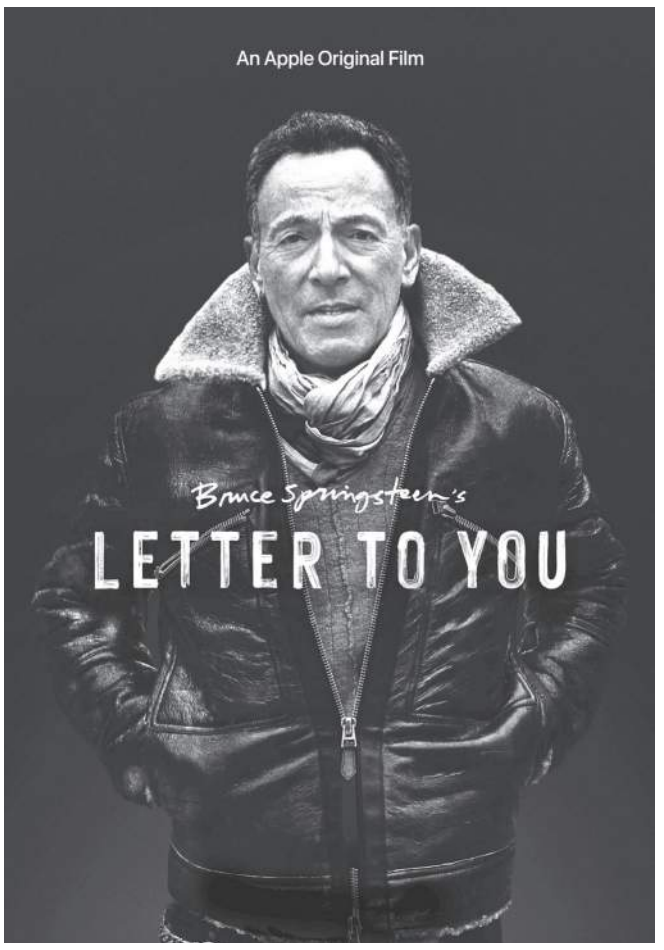
NEW YORK (AP)—Bruce Springsteen isn't just releasing a new rock album later this month—he'll also offer a documentary on the making of the music.

"Bruce Springsteen's Letter to You" will offer performances from The E Street Band, in-studio footage and never-before-seen archival material, featuring "a behind-the-scenes look at the iconic artist's creative process," according to a statement.

It is written by Springsteen and directed by his frequent collaborator Thom Zimny. It will be released on Apple TV+ on Oct. 23, the same day the album "Letter To You" drops.

"Letter To You," recorded in just five days, will have nine new songs and include new recordings of three unreleased songs that predate Springsteen's 1973 debut album, "Greetings From Asbury Park, N.J." The songs are: "Janey Needs a Shooter," "If I Was the Priest" and "Song for Orphans."

Springsteen is joined on "Letter To You" by Roy Bittan, Nils Lofgren, Patti Scialfa, Garry Tallent, Stevie Van Zandt, Max Weinberg, Charlie Giordano and Jake Clemons. The album was produced by Ron Aniello with Bruce Springsteen.



APPLE VIA AP

This image released by Apple shows key art for the documentary "Bruce Springsteen's Letter To You," premiering on Oct. 23, the same day the album "Letter To You" releases.

Albania's writer Ismail Kadare awarded Neustadt Prize

TIRANA, Albania (AP)—The U.S Embassy in Tirana on Monday said that Albanian novelist Ismail Kadare has been awarded the Neustadt International Prize for Literature.

The announcement posted on the embassy's Facebook page said the Neustadt Prize and Festival, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, is a celebration of international books and culture sponsored by World Literature Today and will be hosted by the University of Oklahoma in a ceremony to be held online later this month.

Kadare, 84, a long-time nominee for the Nobel Literature Prize, has been well-known as a novelist and poet since the 1960s when Albania was governed by the communist regime of late communist dictator Enver Hoxha.

Kadare became internationally known with his "The general of the dead army" novel published in 1963.

Only months before a students' protest in December 1990 installed political pluralism, Kadare flew to France asking for political asylum. During the post-communist period since then, he has resisted calls from different political parties or politicians to become the country's president. He has mainly lived in Paris and temporarily in Tirana too.

France has made him a foreign associate of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences and also Commander of the Legion of Honor.

Kadare has been awarded with a number of international prizes for his works, including the Prix mondial Cino Del Duca, the Herder Prize, the Man Booker International Prize, the Prince of Asturias Award of Arts, the Jerusalem Prize and the Park Kyong-ni Prize.

Most of Kadare's about 80 novels, plays, screenplays, poetry, essays or story collections have been translated into different languages.

Researching family history exposes old murder charges

DEAR ABBY: While researching my family, I discovered that my now-elderly mother was charged with the murder of a toddler 40 years ago, before I was born. She was never convicted and never mentioned it. However, after reading her testimony and things she's said after the incident, I have no doubt she is guilty.

This has me reeling because she has always been a great and loving mother. When she heard I was researching our family, she mentioned that I would find something unsavory and asked me to please not look into it because it's in the past and she didn't want it to tarnish my image of her. I don't know how to feel or what to do.

SHOCKED IN THE WEST

DEAR SHOCKED: If your mother was charged with murder, either the charges were dropped or she was found innocent by a jury. You wrote that your mother was a great and loving mother. For that you should feel grateful because not all children are so fortunate as you were. I think it's time for you to take the opportunity to get her side of the story. Unless you have all the facts, the last thing you should do is judge her.

DEAR ABBY: My sweet, introverted son has just started high school. He's a shy person who has a hard time making friends, and the few friends he had in middle school aren't attending the same high school. He has confided that he is terrified that he will be bullied and won't know how to respond. He asked me if there was a phrase that repels bullies. I told him I don't know any and I would ask you.

WORRIED MOM

DEAR WORRIED MOM: Like your son, many students transitioning to high school are afraid of the unknown. Why is he afraid of being bullied? Did it happen to him in middle school? If so, why? Many schools have antibullying policies in place, and students who are subjected to it should report it immediately.

While I know of no one-size-fits-all phrase that will repel a bully, I do think that enrolling your son in martial arts classes would give him a sense of confidence that he is lacking now. You should also encourage him to get involved with special interest groups at his new school, which might enable him to meet and interact with more kids and possibly make new friends.

DEAR ABBY: My husband insists that I go out in public without wearing any underwear. He thinks it's sexy. I am uncomfortable doing this because it makes me feel dirty and trashy. I also feel it is unsanitary. Your thoughts?

NOT MY THING IN VIRGINIA

DEAR NOT: I'm glad you asked. Dirty and trashy are separate issues from unsanitary. You are a married adult woman, and wearing or not wearing anything under your dresses or skirts has no bearing on whether you are (or aren't) a "good" girl.

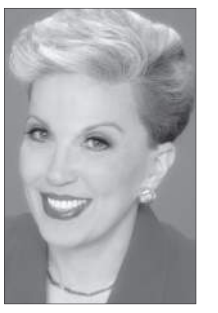
I imagine some couples go out for a special night on the town "commando" because it's exciting, their secret, and maybe can lead to romance later. Some people also feel more comfortable never wearing underwear. If you have questions about whether the practice is unhealthy, discuss it with your physician or gynecologist.

Bottom line, you should not do anything you're uncomfortable with.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

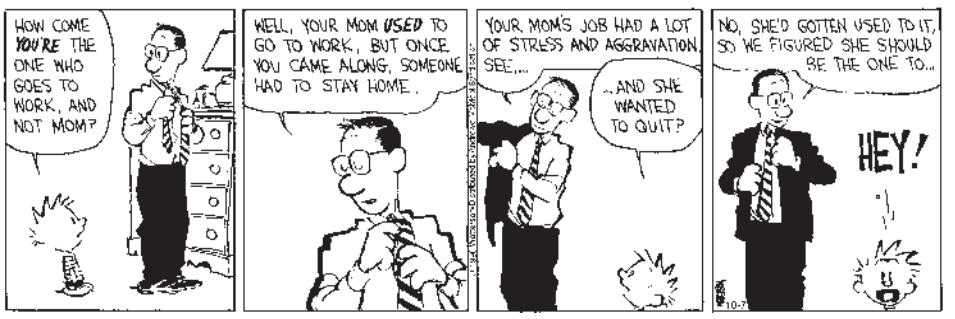


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

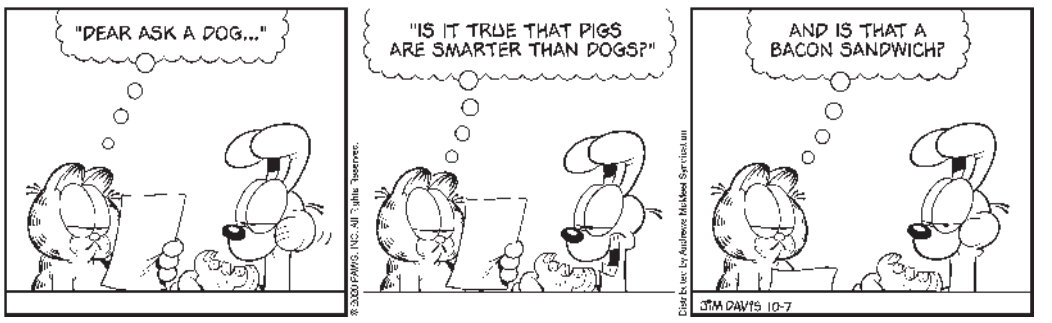
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOW COME YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOES TO WORK, AND NOT MOM?
WELL, YOUR MOM USED TO GO TO WORK, BUT ONCE YOU CAME ALONG, SOMEONE HAD TO STAY HOME.
YOUR MOM'S JOB HAD A LOT OF STRESS AND AGGRAVATION, SEE,...
...AND SHE WANTED TO QUIT?
NO, SHE'D GOTTEN USED TO IT, SO WE FIGURED SHE SHOULD BE THE ONE TO...
HEY!

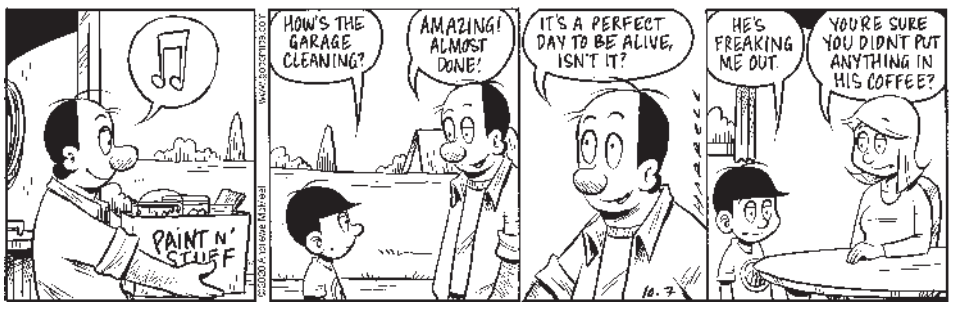
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


PAINT N' STUFF
HOW'S THE GARAGE CLEANING?
AMAZING! ALMOST DONE!
IT'S A PERFECT DAY TO BE ALIVE, ISN'T IT?
HE'S FREAKING ME OUT.
YOU'RE SURE YOU DIDN'T PUT ANYTHING IN HIS COFFEE?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOUR HONOR, I TAKE IN DIATRIS AS FOREMAN OF THE SUPREME COURT VERY SERIOUSLY.
YOU MEAN FOREMAN OF THE JURY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TELLING THE WAITRESS AT THE DINER.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Distant
4 Actor/director Brooks
7 Mediocre
8 Actress Sophia
10 Trattoria plateful
11 Fictitious
13 Scoops
16 Scrape (out)
17 Misanthrope
18 Back muscle, briefly
19 Golfer McIlroy
20 Diner's card
21 Is boastful
23 Despots
25 Borscht veggie
26 Openings
27 Dorm VIPs
28 Touchy— (overly emotional)
30 Plopped down
33 Long shot
36 Billie Jean's sport
37 Emulate Lincoln
38 Do the tango
39 Biography
40 Calif. clock setting
41 Sch. URL ender

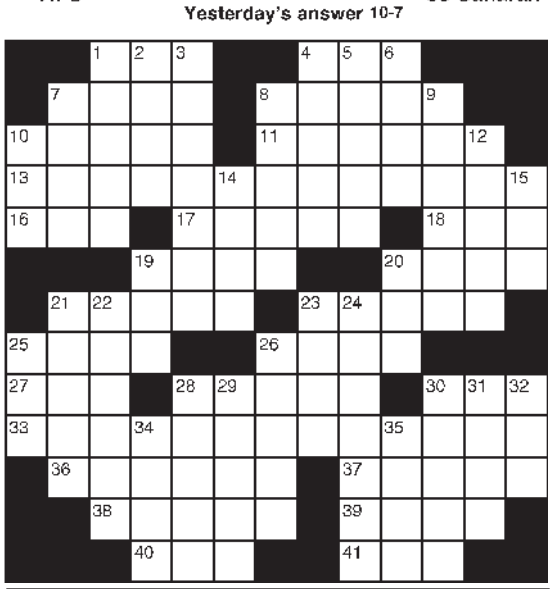
DOWN

1 "Cabaret" director Bob
2 Wine region
3 Selfish driver
4 Three-card scam
5 Goof
6 Lusty look
7 Foundered
8 Lascivious
9 Carpentry power tool
10 Bakery purchase
12 Inclines
14 Jug handles
15 R-V link
19 Snitch
20 More (Sp.)
21 Hum-dinger
22 Took it easy
23 Body powder
24 Peeper's place
25 Street address?
26 Gaggle members
28 Helsinki populace
29 Decree
30 Major mix-up
31 Part of a French play
32 Casual shirt
34 Cinch
35 Saharan

Solution time: 23 mins.

R	E	D	■	■	C	R	O	■	S	W	A	T	
I	D	L	E	■	I	V	■	T	O	D	O		
C	A	■	N	■	A	M	A	N	P	O	U	R	
A	M	A	Z	O	N	S	■	C	A	D	E	T	
■	■	■	E	R	G	■	E	A	U	■	■	■	
V	A	U	L	I	■	A	M	A	L	G	A	M	
I	T	S	■	■	F	L	U	■	■	C	R	O	
A	M	A	D	E	U	S	■	A	U	D	I	O	
■	■	■	U	R	N	■	I	N	N	■	■	■	
W	O	R	S	T	■	A	M	A	S	S	E	D	
A	M	A	T	E	U	R	S	■	E	N	D	O	
I	N	H	E	■	S	E	E	■	A	C	N	E	
L	I	E	D	■	C	S	T	■	T	B	A	R	

Yesterday's answer 10-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shawn Ashmore, 41; Toni Braxton, 53; Simon Cowell, 61; Joy Behar, 78.

Happy Birthday: Explore and learn; expand your mind, interests and friendships. Connect with people who share your goals. Detail and precision, along with agility and speed, will help you gain respect and self-satisfaction. Personal growth will lead to a lifestyle adjustment that encourages you to push for the truth, exercise your rights and build a solid base to support your accomplishments. Your numbers are 9, 15, 21, 29, 33, 38, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't let frustration get you down. Take care of your responsibilities, and move on to something physically or mentally stimulating. Consider your interests, research new possibilities and focus on achieving your goals. Refuse to let an outsider meddle in your business. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Check motives before you get involved in a joint venture. You'll face less opposition if you do your own thing. Make personal changes that will change the way you socialize or interact with others. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't let your emotions interfere with what you have to get done. A positive attitude will help you summon the support you require to finish what you start. Take better care of your health and pending domestic problems. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You may not receive all the information you require to make the right decision. Ask questions, bide your time and don't be afraid to make a last-minute change if you have doubts. Personal improvements will pay off, and romance is favored. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Say less and do more. Your actions will make a difference. A passionate approach to work will lead to progress and eliminate any doubts someone has in your ability. Don't let the changes someone makes stand in your way. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Let technology help you get things done. Set up meetings, and voice your opinion. How you conduct business will impress someone who can help you get ahead. Valuable information that will help you improve your direction and lifestyle will come your way. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Hop on the information highway and research something that interests you. The outcome will be an innovative idea that will help you get ahead. A change to the way you handle money or the direction you decide to pursue looks promising. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Strive to achieve your goal. Stay within budget, even if someone tries to persuade you to spend more. The change you make personally will have a positive impact on your state of mind. An innovative approach will lead to monetary gains. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Too many options will confuse you. Take a moment to digest your options and consider the long-term effects. Don't leave anything to chance or count on someone for help. Go after your goal, and do the work yourself. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Someone will put up a fuss or question your motives. Use charm and offer incentives if you want to make changes without interference. A personal goal you set will change the way you work and live. Contracts can be negotiated and signed. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take pride in what you do. Fix up your surroundings to accommodate something you want to pursue. A personal change you make will boost your confidence and fetch compliments. Physical action will bring good results; talks will lead to empty promises. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Mull over what you've accomplished, and proceed to make positive changes to the way you live, work and handle your money. Don't let the emotional decisions you make lead to a regrettable mistake. Someone from your past will offer insight. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are playful, energetic and thoughtful. You are intuitive and intelligent.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				3	8			
			9			3		
			2			4	1	
	8	3			7	5		
9			8	6	5		2	
7							1	
	6						7	
		5	6	3	1	2		
			9		2			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	8	2	5	6	1	3	9	7
5	7	9	3	4	8	2	1	6
3	6	1	2	7	9	8	4	5
1	3	8	6	5	4	7	2	9
6	2	4	9	8	7	5	3	1
7	9	5	1	3	2	4	6	8
8	4	3	7	9	6	1	5	2
9	1	7	4	2	5	6	8	3
2	5	6	8	1	3	9	7	4

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

A PLATE OF CHICORY — Solution: 10 letters

C	G	A	R	D	E	N	S	R	H	C	N	U	R	C
D	O	M	E	A	T	F	A	O	L	R	A	G	U	S
R	E	I	F	N	H	T	L	A	E	H	R	R	E	S
G	R	F	O	I	F	R	E	S	H	I	L	V	A	E
D	R	E	F	C	B	N	F	T	L	Y	A	L	C	L
C	L	O	D	U	N	E	E	L	O	E	T	H	W	P
I	H	P	U	N	T	A	R	E	L	L	E	E	N	P
M	K	O	C	N	E	S	R	L	R	E	D	Ⓛ	O	A
A	O	O	P	L	D	T	A	F	S	G	Ⓘ	O	I	I
S	O	F	I	G	S	F	F	E	L	Ⓞ	E	R	L	G
L	C	O	S	I	V	E	R	T	Ⓑ	E	T	A	E	G
A	R	O	I	H	C	C	I	D	A	R	T	C	D	O
B	I	T	T	E	R	E	S	E	C	U	A	S	N	I
R	S	C	O	F	F	E	E	V	I	D	N	E	A	H
S	P	I	C	E	S	T	E	M	S	A	L	A	D	C

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Apples, Balsamic, Bitter, Boil, Broil, Castelfranco, Cheese, Chioggia, Chop, Coffee, Cook, Cool, Crisp, Crunch, Curly, Dandelion, Diet, Dried, Endive, Escarole, Fall, Fiber, Figs, Fresh, Frise, Gardens, Green, Grill, Ground, Health, Leaves, Meat, Puntarelle, Radicchio, Roast, Salad, Salt, Sauce, Spice, Stem, Stuffed, Sugarloaf, Tender, Treviso

Yesterday's Answer: Trainer

Treasuries 24 through 41 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Disappointed Davis hopes to bounce back in Game 4

AP
Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis (3) fumbles against the Miami Heat during the second half in Game 3 of the NBA Finals, Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

FLORIDA (AP)—There is no escaping a bad night in the bubble.

No going out for a good time. No getting away from the teammates a player feels he let down.

There is only time to ponder it and think about how to correct it.

That's OK with Anthony Davis.

"I know it's always beneficial to get away and kind of forget about it, but when you're here, you have to embrace that," Davis said Monday.

"You can't really run from it."

Davis had only 15 points in Game 3, 18 fewer than he averaged in the first two games. He was foul-prone early and puzzlingly passive late in the Los Angeles Lakers' 115-104 loss that cut their lead over the Miami Heat to 2-1.

The forward/center had been perhaps the dominant player in the first two games of the finals and there was no reason to think that wouldn't continue against an undermanned opponent that was missing its best defensive option against him.

But despite Bam Adebayo's absence and nobody else on the Heat roster who should be able to contain him, the 6-foot-10 Davis took only nine shots and had as many turnovers (five) as rebounds.

Los Angeles was outscored by a whopping 26 points when Davis was in the game.

"It sucks just because you know if you play well and had done your job, then you possibly could have won the game," Davis said.

Game 4 is Tuesday. The Lakers followed their three previous postseason losses by winning the remaining games in each series, and Davis averaged 33 points in the games immediately following those defeats.

LeBron James expects a similar recovery Tuesday.

"I expect him to be AD," James said.

James didn't need to say much more to outsiders, because Davis comes and gets the answers directly from him. He explained that he liked talking to teammates and coaches, who will tell him what improvements are necessary to avoid another poor performance.

Davis largely ignores everyone else.

"The good thing for me, I'm not a big social media guy, so I have it but I don't really be on it," he said. "I'm very disciplined to not, especially after nights like last night. A lot of people get caught up in the news and the social media and what everybody is saying. But I don't really care about it too much."

Davis' first-quarter stats in Game 3 would be bad for the last man on the bench in garbage time, let alone a perennial All-Star. He had no shots, four turnovers and two fouls in nearly eight minutes. The Lakers were outscored by 13 points while he was in the game.

It appeared Davis had played his way into a rhythm in the third quarter. He picked up his fourth foul less than two minutes into the period, but coach Frank Vogel left him on the floor rather than sit him down again. Davis went on to play the whole quarter, scoring 10 points on 4-of-6 shooting.

But then he was scoreless in the fourth, taking only one shot and grabbing one rebound in 10 minutes.

He explained that his early fouls had hindered his aggressiveness. After grabbing eight offensive rebounds in Game 2, when he scored on three straight follow shots in the third quarter, Davis had only three on Sunday as he tried to avoid picking up a foul for jumping over an opponent's back.

Still, there were other ways the defensive player of the year runner-up should have been able to impact the game and lessen the workload on James.

He is glad that he doesn't have to wait long for another chance.

"You look forward to it," Davis said. "You want to go out there and play well. You want to go out there and help your team win."

LeBron not concerned after loss

Despite the Game 3 loss and the series extended to at least Game 5 on Friday, James said there's no cause for panic.

"I don't feel like we're concerned," James said. "We're not concerned. We know we can play a lot better. We have another opportunity to take a commanding lead on Tuesday. You relish that opportunity."

James also mentioned about his matchup with Jimmy Butler.

"Love it. Love it," James said of the matchup with Butler. "One of the best competitors we have in our game. We love that opportunity. For me personally, I don't know how many more opportunities I'm going to have, so to be able to go against a fierce competitor like that is something I'll look back on when I'm done playing. I'll miss those moments."

Butler became the third player in NBA history to record a 40-point triple-double in the Finals, accompanying the Lakers' star and former Lakers great Jerry West. At times during the game, James and Butler were seen playfully jawing at one another.

Butler, Heat look to even up finals series

FLORIDA (AP)—Jimmy Butler, perhaps the NBA's best-known barista, is not adjusting the prices at the coffee shop that he's been operating out of his hotel room for Miami Heat teammates and staff inside the NBA bubble. Even after a win, everything at Big Face Coffee remains $20.

The plan is working, so Butler sees no reason to change.

The Heat might apply the same approach going forward in these NBA Finals. Butler played 45 minutes and had the ball in his hands on basically every possession of Game 3, when Miami won to get within 2-1 of the Los Angeles Lakers in this series. Game 4 is Tuesday night, and much like Butler's coffee-sales strategy, the Heat may stick with what works.

"There's no turning back," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He has to make some things happen for us. He did that in a brilliant way last night, and he'll likely have to do something very similar to that again. For us to be able to accomplish what we want to accomplish, you can't just be normal. You have to be extraordinary."

Butler had 40 points, 11 rebounds and 13 assists in Miami's Game 3 win. Extraordinary, the word Spoelstra used, doesn't even truly cover it—out of the 8,175 game appearances by players in the NBA Finals, Butler was the first to have a 40-point triple-double in a finals win, and one of only three with one regardless of outcome.

He is the reluctant superstar: Butler swears that he'd rather see his teammates fill the scorebook than do it himself, even though Spoelstra pretty much has made clear that it's going to be high-usage-of-Butler time the rest of the way, especially if injured starters Bam Adebayo and Goran Dragic remain sidelined.

"I think they know what buttons to press to get me to play the way that they want me to play," Butler said. "But I just want to win."

Butler and Lakers star LeBron James share some common bonds. Both are the best players on their team. Both have an affinity for hard work and a respect toward those who join them in that commitment. And neither plans to go into games shooting for big numbers; they'd both rather pick their spots and get teammates involved.

That might not be an option for Butler right now, and James was asked Monday if he's contemplating a similar approach.

"I've never predetermined my game," James said. "Throughout my whole life, I've never done that. One thing I've always been, I've always been prepared. If you're prepared, then whatever the game, however the course happens, you're able to make adjustments throughout the game and you're able to impact the game because you're prepared and you've put in the work. It's just that simple for me."

Adebayo update

Bam Adebayo might be on his way back to the NBA Finals.

Adebayo, Miami's All-Star center who missed Games 2 and 3 of the title series against the Los Angeles Lakers with a neck strain, is now listed as questionable for Game 4 on Tuesday night. The Heat made that determination Monday, while continuing to list fellow starter Goran Dragic as doubtful with a torn left plantar fascia.

"I'm trying to get back as quickly as possible," Adebayo said Monday before the Heat upgraded his status. "They're just trying to make sure I'm safe and I'm ready to play. It's really day-to-day. When they say I'm ready to play, I'll be out there."

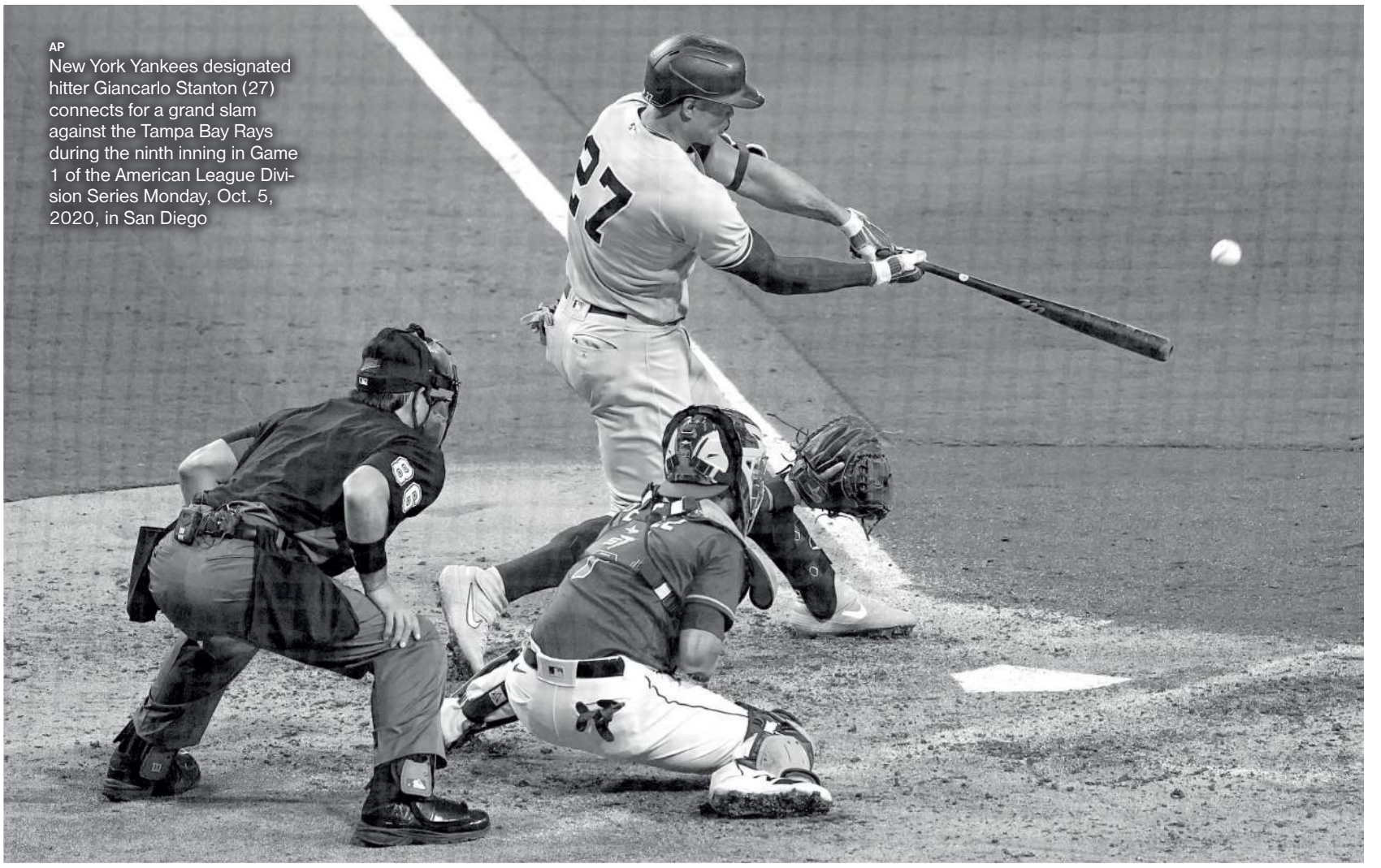
Adebayo has also been dealing with a shoulder injury that flared during the Eastern Conference finals against Boston. The neck strain is more concerning to the Heat.

"I don't miss games. That's not me," Adebayo said. "That's not how I'm built. I want to play. I've always been like that. I've always got the thrill of just putting on that uniform and going out there and playing. To be in the finals and the medical staff is telling me I can't play ... it sucks. But I understand."

Dragic left in the second quarter of Game 1. It's unclear if he'll be able to return in this series.

"I mean, it's not the easiest thing right now for me to sit down on the sideline and watch my team, how they are battling, how they are playing well, and of course I want to be out there," Dragic said. "Most of the time I ask myself, I ask the guy above why it has to happen right now. It's tough. It's tough. You know, try to look at it this way: everything is with a purpose, so we'll see."

Stanton powers Yankees past Rays in opener



AP
New York Yankees designated hitter Giancarlo Stanton (27) connects for a grand slam against the Tampa Bay Rays during the ninth inning in Game 1 of the American League Division Series Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, in San Diego

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Giancarlo Stanton and the Bronx Bombers made themselves right at home in Petco Park on a warm October evening in Southern California.

Stanton hit a grand slam in the ninth inning for New York's fourth home run of the game, and the Yankees beat the Tampa Bay Rays 9-3 on Monday in the opener of their AL Division Series at Petco Park.

Stanton homered to straightaway center field on a 2-2 pitch from John Curtiss. The slugger took several steps with his bat still in his hands as he watched the ball sail through the pleasant San Diego evening air before beginning his trot.

A few fans chanted "Let's Go Yankees!" from a balcony on an office building just beyond right field of the mostly empty ballpark.

"That SoCal air, man. That SoCal weather. That's what it is," said Stanton, who is from Los Angeles and won the Home Run Derby at Petco Park in 2016. He spent his first eight seasons with the Marlins and has nine homers in 20 games at Petco Park.

Kyle Higashioka, another SoCal native, and Aaron Judge hit the tying and go-ahead home runs off Blake Snell in the fifth to back winner Gerrit Cole. Clint Frazier hit an impressive shot into the second deck in left in the third.

The Bronx Bombers became the first team in American League history to hit a grand slam in back-to-back playoff games. Gio Urshela connected in Game 2 of the first-round sweep against Cleveland. Two NL teams have done it, the 1977 Dodgers and 2011 Diamondbacks.

Judge said he's comfortable in San Diego, and his parents were at the game.

"This is the first game my parents were able to come to as well. That's huge. My dad for sure doesn't miss more than a month at a time, and we're in October now," he said.

Game 2 in the best-of-five series is Tuesday night, with 21-year-old rookie Deivi Garcia set to become the youngest Yankees pitcher to make a postseason start. Tyler Glasnow goes for the Rays.

Beginning with this round, all postseason series were moved to neutral sites because of the coronavirus.

The Yankees set a franchise record by hitting at least three home runs in three consecutive postseason games. They are the second team to do it in baseball history after the Rays did it in four straight in 2008.

Stanton has played in only 41 games over the past two seasons because of injuries.

"I feel great for him because I know this is what I envisioned for him last year," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "He's such a dangerous hitter in the middle of our lineup. When he's controlling the strike zone, he's as deadly as anyone."

New York has 11 homers in three playoff games this year. They are the most for any team in the first three games of a postseason.

Teams that have outhomered the opposition are 13-0 in these playoffs.

Tampa Bay dominated the contentious regular-season series, going 8-2 against the rival Yankees and winning the AL East by seven games over second-place New York.

With the calendar flipped to October, it was a different story in their first postseason meeting.

"They can hit, there's no secret in that," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "There's nothing that was unexpected with them. They've just got some guys back that are healthier. There were a handful of players who didn't have consistent reps against us or throughout the 60-game season due to injuries. They looked healthy tonight."

Astros 10, Athletics 5

Carlos Correa homered twice and drove in four, Jose Altuve hit a go-ahead, two-run single during Houston's four-run sixth inning and the Astros rallied to beat Oakland in the opener of their AL Division Series at Dodger Stadium.

George Springer, MVP of the 2017 World Series, had four hits for Houston.

The Astros rallied with two outs in the sixth against Oakland's vaunted bullpen to take control of Major League Baseball's first neutral-site postseason game resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. Houston pounded out 16 hits in all as the A's ran through eight pitchers.

Altuve's line-drive single to left scored Martin Maldonado and Springer to put the Astros in front, 6-5. Altuve moved up on the throw home and scored on Michael Brantley's single to right.

Blake Taylor got the victory with one inning of relief. J.B. Wendelken took the loss, allowing four runs and three hits in two-thirds of an inning.

Chiefs beat Pats in COVID-19-delayed game

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—It's hard enough to slow down Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs under the best of circumstances.

Try doing it with your star quarterback shelved by COVID-19, a 40-year-old journeyman taking his place, your top running back headed to injured reserve and a flight that didn't land in Kansas City until shortly before kickoff.

Yet the New England Patriots still managed to give the Chiefs fits for most of the way Monday night, hanging within a field goal of the Super Bowl champs until late in the third quarter. It wasn't until Tyrann Mathieu took an interception back for a touchdown in the fourth that Kansas City clinched its 26-10 victory at Arrowhead Stadium.

"You've seen it this season. You've seen it last season. Even if you hold us down, we can go out there and make plays when they count," said Mahomes, who threw for 236 yards and two touchdowns. "When your number is called you have to make plays, and I thought enough guys made plays that we were able to get out of there with a win."

Tyreek Hill and Mecole Hardman had the TD grabs for the Chiefs, who have now won 13 straight games.

"We made plays when we had to make plays," coach Andy Reid said, "and we can learn from this. We have to do better in a lot of areas, but it's tough to win in this league and it's tough to beat the Patriots in any situation."

Perhaps a bit easier in this one.

The marquee matchup was supposed to be Sunday, but it was put on pause when New England confirmed that a player—later revealed to be Cam Newton—tested positive for COVID-19. Later on Saturday, it came out that Chiefs practice squad QB Jordan Ta'amu also had tested positive, forcing the NFL to postpone the game.

More tests, including one taken at 6 a.m. ET on Monday, returned no additional positives from either team.

With their quarterback sidelined, and running back Sony Michel hitting the IR with a quad injury, the Patriots (2-2) were forced to lean on journeyman Brian Hoyer and a cast of running backs that never got into much of a rhythm.

Packers 30, Falcons 16

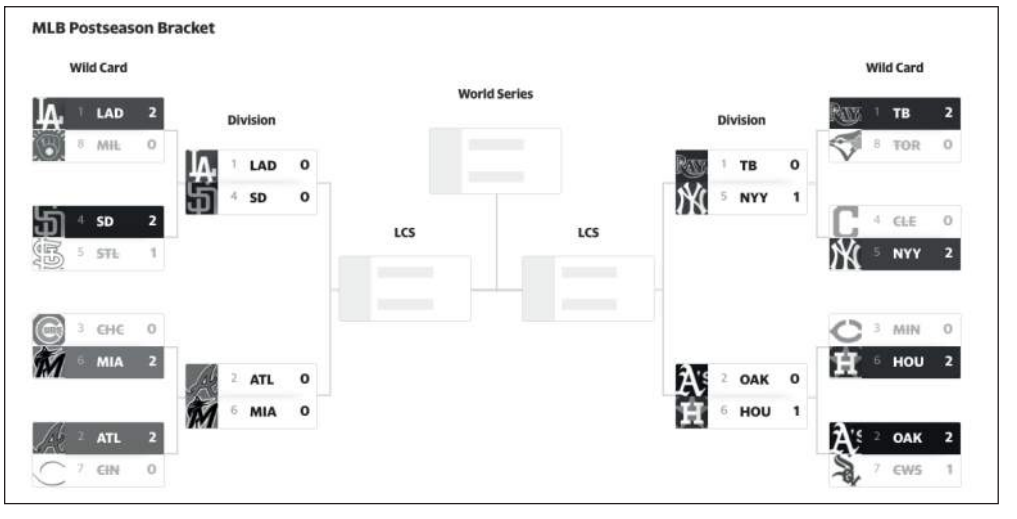
The Green Bay Packers needed someone to step forward when injuries left their top two wide receivers unavailable.

That made it the perfect showcase for tight end Robert Tonyan to continue his breakthrough season.

Tonyan caught three of Aaron Rodgers' four touchdown passes, Za'Darius Smith recorded three sacks and the Packers remained unbeaten with a victory over the winless Atlanta Falcons.

"I just had to continue to do what I've been doing, just keep playing well and stick to the game plan," Tonyan said. "Like I've said before, when plays come to me, I've got to make them. Aaron had a nice little look in his eye tonight, so I just was trying to roll with that."

The Packers (4-0) have opened a season by scoring at least 30 points in four straight games for the first time in franchise history.



Déjà vu for Djokovic; Nadal vs Thiem looms

AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic checks on a linesman after a ball spun off his racket during his fourth round match in the French Open tennis tournament against Russia's Karen Khachanov at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Monday, Oct. 5, 2020.

PARIS—In a briefly, frighteningly reminiscent scene, Novak Djokovic stretched out his right arm to return a serve in his French Open fourth-round match against Russian Karen Khachanov. Djokovic got his racket on the ball, but it careened directly into a service linesperson's mask-covered face.

Fortunately, the linesperson appeared to be fine. Djokovic checked on the official sitting across from the service line, and play continued.

"My gosh, it was very awkward déjà vu," Djokovic said in obvious reference to his U.S. Open fourth-round default last month. "I'm actually trying to find the linesperson and see if he's OK because I saw he had a little bit of a bruise, like redness, in that place in the head where the ball hit him. I hope he's fine. I mean, he definitely dealt with it in a very strong and brave way."

The top seed Djokovic went on to sweep the 15th seed Khachanov 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, advancing to the quarterfinals without dropping a set in four matches. He next gets 17th seed Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain, the man on the other side of the net for that lamentable U.S. Open incident.

The only foe to defeat Djokovic in 2020 was his own temper.

In this same fourth round at the U.S. Open last month, Djokovic struck a ball in at least frustration, arguably anger, after having his serve broken. The ball struck a linesperson in the throat, though it was not his intention. He was defaulted from the tournament for what happened, given he struck a ball outside of in-match play that hit an official.

Djokovic was at no fault for what happened Monday, when a well-placed serve gave him little control over his return shot. These things happen.

"Obviously because of what happened in New York, people I guess are going to make the story out of this," he said. "It has happened to me and to many other players in the last 15 years that I've been on the tour. I've seen it a lot when the ball ricochets from the racket and the frame, hits someone in the stands, or someone that is close to you or line umpire. Yeah, it was a very awkward situation obviously."

Djokovic continued a march to what could be a showdown with Rafael Nadal in a Sunday final. The Serbian is going for his 18th Grand Slam singles title, which would move him one behind Nadal and two behind male record holder Roger Federer.

Nadal eyes a 13th French Open crown, which would tie him with Federer in the total major titles count for the first time since they both had zero.

Nadal and Dominic Thiem can set up yet another French Open meeting with victories on Tuesday, only this time they would face each other in the semifinals instead of the final. Thiem was the runner-up to Nadal in 2018 and 2019; the man who won the U.S. Open last month is 26-4 at Roland Garros over the past five years, and three of those losses came against Nadal (the other came against Djokovic). The No. 2 seed Nadal will wrap up the day's Court Philippe Chatrier schedule by playing 19-year-old Jannik Sinner of Italy. Sinner is the first man to reach the quarterfinals in his Paris debut since Nadal won the first of his record 12 championships at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament in 2005. No. 3 seed Thiem's quarterfinal comes earlier in the day against No. 12 Diego Schwartzman.

Meanwhile, No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece and No. 13 Andrey Rublev advanced to play each other for the second time since the French Open began. They meet in a Wednesday quarterfinal, 10 days after they played in a clay-court final in Hamburg, Germany, on the same day that play started at Roland Garros.

The Tsitsipas-Rublev winner could play Djokovic in the semifinals.

FAMILY

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lyn is 4 and uses a 4-wheeler. Watching them navigate their way along the course reminds me of the time I used to come to CowTown to support my dad and sister during their races, cheering them every time they go airborne and helping them fix their gear, and giving them water or food after the rides," Susulin said.

Henry Sr. still races under the revived MRA and is in fact the one who encouraged his granddaughters to try the sport, while her ever supportive daughter now looks after Harley and Brooklyn on and off the track every weekend, watching the young riders learn their way around the especially-designed course for kids.

"They've been riding for two months now and at first they were a bit hesitant and that got me worried but not for long, as I know safety is MRA's priority, especially for the kids. Their grandpa helped them go through the track. Then after only a few tries, Harley got it right so her grandpa was really proud of her," Susulin said.

Harley, a third grader at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, said she enjoys every ride on her bike and the rush for speed as she works her way along the course. Harley rides a 50cc dirk bike, but recently got a Yamaha YZ 65cc, which is a birthday present from her dad, Rex. The young rider is celebrating her birthday today.

"I had fun with other kids every time we race. I hope to see more kids riding with us. We need more girl riders," Harley said.

Susulin said that just like how she supported her dad and sister back in the days, she will be with her children all the way if they decide to stick with motocross. For parents like her who have children interested in the motocross, she encouraged them to step forward as there are people in MRA that will share their knowledge in the sport and keep riders safe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Harley Susulin gets a pep talk from dad Rex before heading out to the course.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vanessa Susulin, left, secures the helmet of her daughter, Harley, before letting the young rider go through the course in Marpi.

NEW

From Page 20

idea of soccer, or football as known in the whole world, as I used to cover and write stories about the sport, but there is still much to learn and I hope to gain more knowledge from coaches Percy and Austin.

And last Sunday, the two other members of the coaching staff and I helped coach Percy in conducting the first practice of the two teams that have 10 players each. Since most of the kids have played in previous leagues and knew the basics of the game, we only did some passing drills. Coach Percy showed to us—the players and the coaches—the proper way of keeping yourself open, receiving the ball from a pass from your teammate, and attacking toward the goal of your opponent.

Coach Percy explained to the kids that your foot must resemble a hockey stick when receiving the ball, while each player needs to keep moving in the field and must keep an eye on the position of the defender before receiving the pass from their teammate.

The structure coach Percy wanted to set up was part of an extensive training course (Canadian Child Coaching License) that he and coach Austin completed last year. According to coach Percy, the course provided a full methodology that is focused on soccer technicalities as well as personality development. They grouped the club into three: children (U7-U11), youth (U13-U15), and adolescents (U17-U19).

The first practice was designed not only to introduce the coaches and players to each other but also help educate the kids on the latest techniques of the game. Our next practice will be on Oct. 8 and coaches Percy and Austin will let the other coaches conduct the training sessions while they act as observers.

This is a new adventure and challenge for me with football (soccer) now being my second favorite sport after badminton. My appreciation for soccer further increased as I watched the skill level of Nathan improve. And with me learning more from the coaches along with the certification and training courses that I am going to attend to, I can help Nathan and others further develop their skills. So, challenge accepted!

Disappointed Davis hopes to bounce back in Game 4

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Sports

Stanton powers Yankees past Rays in opener

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Family races together, stays together

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Vanessa Susulin still remembers like it was just yesterday when she used to watch her dad, Henry Camacho Sr., and sister Britney race at the former CowTown Raceway Park, flying and clearing obstacles along the course.

It was actually more than a decade ago when her family members were with the thriving motocross community in the CNMI. Britney competed in Mini ATV class and often topped her division, while Henry Sr. was a perennial contender in the veteran class.

Competitions at the raceway had long been gone, but not the memories of Susulin supporting her father and sister, especially at this time when the sport is making a comeback and she finds herself "involved" with motocross again.

Susulin now has her own family joining the Marianas Racing Association-organized weekend races in Marpi where the former Kan Pacific Swimming Pool is located.

"My daughters Harley and Brooklynn are racing every Sunday. Harley is 8 years old and rides a dirt bike and Brook-

See FAMILY on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Harley Susulin waits for the start of her ride in Marpi during one of Marianas Racing Association's regular races every Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Harley Susulin navigates the course.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Henry Camacho Sr., center, poses with his granddaughters, Harley, right, and Brooklyn after completing their respective races.

A new challenge

BENCHWARMER
By JON PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jon Perez is a former reporter in the CNMI where he covered various beats (sports, business, community, and politics). He is now based in Saskatoon, Canada.

Last Oct. 4 was my first day of being an assistant coach under Hollandia Soccer Club. I volunteered this season for a U13 team, Hollandia Tapia. Nathan, our son, plays for Hollandia Ajoboru, the other U13 team under HSC. They would play against each other in a club league since tournaments are still on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The teams are named after the person coaching them. Nathan team's head coach is Henry Ajoboru, while the squad where I am one of the assistants is handled by Hernan Tapia. Percy Hoff is the club director of coaching and player development and brings in more than three decades of technical and training expertise to HSC after guiding University of Saskatchewan to two provincial titles and helping the Huskies gain a spot in the Nationals in Edmonton and Winnipeg in the '90s.

Coach Percy, who's also a part of the training staff that prepared Canadian national youth teams, holds coaching certification from the United States, Brazil, and the Netherlands. HSC, one of the most successful clubs in the province of Saskatchewan, was formed by Dutch immigrants in the 1950s that is why they also adopted orange, the colors of the national team of the Netherlands, in their uniforms. George Vanderploeg helped found the club, as all their players were Dutch settlers in Saskatoon.

Austin Boryski, a former Husky and a product of the HSC youth program, is the club head coach. His five-year stint as a Huskie gave the team the 2014 Canada West Conference championships and earned them a spot on the CIS nationals.

HSC coaches and officials are truly experienced and knowledgeable with the sport and I need to keep up. I have been watching YouTube videos to increase my knowledge in soccer—like positions of the players and other skills. I have the basic

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